

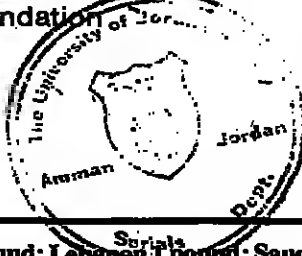
Lebanon violence killed 3,240 in '83

BEIRUT (R) — Some 3,240 people were killed in fighting in Lebanon during 1983, according to estimates Monday by security sources and the country's various warring groups. About 1,500 people died during a three-week war that erupted in the Shouf mountains east of Beirut after the Israeli army withdrew last September, security and Druze militia sources said. Fighting between supporters and opponents of Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat claimed about 1,000 lives, according to security sources. Security sources said car and truck bombs claimed about 550 lives throughout Lebanon, including 241 U.S. servicemen and 58 French paratroopers killed last October. Israeli air raids and shelling killed about 80 people, security sources said. In addition, Israel has said it lost 73 servicemen in Lebanon last year. Bomb explosions, totalling about 525 compared with 377 in 1982, left about 35 dead.

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U.K. Labour urges MNF talks

LONDON (R) — The chief defence spokesman of the British opposition Labour Party Monday urged the government to call a meeting of countries contributing troops to the Multi-national Force (MNF) in Beirut to consider pulling out their contingents. The plea by Denis Davies followed an announcement by France it was transferring nearly 500 of its soldiers from Beirut to southern Lebanon and growing pressure for a pullout in the other nations involved — Britain, Italy and the United States. Mr. Davies said in a statement, "The growing movement in high places in America to withdraw their Marines certainly from the Lebanon mainland is a vindication of the arguments from the Labour Party over the last few months that British troops should also be taken out."

Mondale calls for Marine pullout, page 2

Israeli patrol attacked in Nablus

TEL AVIV (R) — Two petrol bombs were tossed at an Israeli patrol Sunday in the occupied Arab West Bank town of Nablus but caused no casualties or damage. Israeli military sources said. Palestinian protesters also threw stones at Israeli vehicles passing through Nablus but quickly dispersed when police arrived.

Haddad reported seriously ill

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli-backed Lebanese militia leader Major Sa'ad Haddad remained in serious condition in an Israeli hospital Monday, suffering from exhaustion, a hospital spokesman said. Local media reports said Maj. Haddad was suffering from cancer but hospital officials have refused to comment on his illness. Maj. Haddad, who deserted the Lebanese army in 1976 to form his own militia force, is Israel's most reliable ally in Lebanon.

Strike hits Israeli Foreign Ministry

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Foreign Ministry closed Monday when government employees stepped up their campaign for more pay. Foreign diplomats were turned away from the ministry and officials called off press briefings to back demands for pay parity with special government units such as the Mossad intelligence agency.

Ex-Pakistani major to be flogged

KARACHI (R) — A retired Pakistani army major will be publicly flogged Tuesday for raping his sister-in-law in 1980, police said Monday. They said Ghulam Sabir Shah, 41, would receive 10 lashes at a sports stadium near the Karachi jail for raping 22-year-old Ghazala Qureshi, a school teacher.

5 S.African soldiers killed in Angola

WINDHOEK, Namibia (South West Africa) (R) — Five South African soldiers were killed at the weekend in Angola during a continuing offensive against black nationalist Namibian freedom fighters, defence headquarters said Monday. A total of 14 South African soldiers — nine whites and five blacks — have now died in the cross-border offensive which began three weeks ago. A defence spokesman in Pretoria said the men killed at the weekend were all white.

Castro assails U.S. president

HAVANA (R) — Cuban leader Fidel Castro said in a speech marking the 25th anniversary of the revolution that put him in power that President Reagan was warlike, adventurous and irresponsible. Speaking Monday night from the same balcony in Santiago de Cuba where he announced his revolutionary victory to the Cuban people, he said peace was vital for the future and added that humanity could not survive a nuclear war.

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'Palestine Liberation Organisation's legitimacy stems from its representation'

King, describing Reagan plan as practically frozen, pledges to resume joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Monday that new efforts will be made soon to crystallise the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, "based on confidence, clarity and sincerity, that would be acceptable to all; Jordanians, Palestinians and Arabs, for now and the future and under all circumstances."

"This is what the present circumstances and challenges require us to," the King said, "and I will dedicate all my efforts in this direction."

In an interview with Jordan Television broadcast Monday evening, King Hussein stressed that the perceived Jordanian-Palestinian relationship should be the subject of a comprehensive debate, "between the one family, the one nation that wants to rescue the (occupied) land, and without

leaving the chance for others to meddle into our private affairs."

The King said he did not know whether the future ties between the East Bank and a liberated West Bank would be confederal. "We will deal with this in the future. However, important as the Palestinians are the Jordanians in this formula. Regardless of the final formula, we, Jordanians and Palestinians alike, should strive for this relationship to be based on confidence, clarity and sincerity —

a relationship that is binding on all," the King said, "... this is our position. This is our opinion. We will defend it and explain it; to the Arabs and the rest of the world. And we hope our people will bless and support it."

Asked on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace plan, announced in September 1982, the King said: "President Reagan stresses from time to time that he still stands by his proposals and adheres to his commitment, but... his initiative is practically frozen by new developments, and I think it is necessary to review the whole thing at a coming stage. The United States then will naturally be a party to the peace-making process, with all the concerned parties in the region, including the Soviet Union and probably all U.N. Security Council members."

The King said he does not have any plans to visit the U.S. in the near future, but that he would do

so when circumstances allow and at the right time.

U.S. ability weakened

In answer to a question on U.S. policy in the area, and what would be called "a confused American policy that would lead to more suffering in the Middle East," the King said: "There are many aspects of the situation that I do not see as satisfactory, nor do I find it acceptable at all. The most bewildering aspect is the recently crystallised U.S. position into being an ally of one party in the conflict vis-a-vis that of a superpower's strong position, whose attitude to the conflict was to a certain extent questionable."

"This in fact greatly affects U.S. ability to contribute to the establishment of a just honourable peace in the area. There has been continued Zionist and Israeli activities on the American scene

since 1956. We are possibly partly to blame for not defending our right in the American arena, and for leaving the door open for Israel to build up its influence and presence on the U.S. political scene. Nonetheless, this is a question of our rightful cause against the enemy's aggressiveness."

"It is a challenge for us to confront in order to restore our position in the world, and we should in no way leave the stage for our enemy to move freely as they wish and reach their goals easily."

'242 is just basis'

Asked what Jordan's perception of a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that would also be practical the King said: "I believe the provisions of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which may not satisfy some parties... are good bases... but I am referring to the basis which does

not admit the occupation of land by force and keeping it through war."

"This entails Israeli withdrawal from all these lands. On the other hand the Palestinian Arab people should be given their right... and that the safety and stability of the area and the safety of all nations and states of the Middle East area be secured," the King added.

Fez proposals

On whether the resolutions of the Arab summit at Fez, Morocco in 1982 are still valid, and how, if so, they could be strengthened and made to live, the King said:

"Fez decision are principles and titles. We tried to give them life, particularly through our endeavours with the Palestinian brothers during the period which followed the Fez conference, to develop the crystallisation of a

Palestinian-Jordanian stand and to give mechanism to implement those decisions."

PLO legitimacy

Replying to a question on the current rift in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the King said: "The Palestinian legitimacy is exposed to threats and dangers and there are evident bids to control and practise influence on it by Arab sister countries. I do not know the powers which might co-operate with them in this trend on the Palestinian arena, the Palestinian struggle and the PLO in particular."

"We consider this act as illegal and unacceptable, and had it succeeded, God forbid, to assume control over the PLO through its leaders or dominate it in one way or another, it would have not led

(Continued on page 3)

Army air crash kills 13 near Qatranah

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian Armed Forces transport plane crashed Monday at 10:45 a.m. in the Qatranah area, some 80 kilometres south of Amman, on the road to Aqaba, killing 13 people on board, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

An Armed Forces spokesman, who did not identify the type of the plane, was quoted by Petra as saying that the crash was due to a technical failure. He said that an officer and 10 soldiers as well as the pilot and co-pilot of the plane were killed in the crash. The plane was transporting military personnel to units in the south of the Kingdom, Petra said.

A similar crash occurred last August in the Jerash area when a plane taking part in a training flight for a Royal Jordanian Air Force formation team crashed causing the death of the pilot, Lt. Ali Ahmad Hassan Al Khawalidh, and a resident in the Jerash area was killed and five others injured by the falling wreckage.

King receives message from Egypt president

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received Monday a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the current Arab situation and principles for Arab and international efforts to activate the Middle East peace process, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The message, which was delivered by Mr. Mubarak's political adviser, Osama Al Baz, also included information on the outcome of the recent talks in Cairo between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser

Arafat and the Egyptian president, according to Petra.

The Hussein-Baz meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi, Court Minister Amer Khammash, and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the agency added.

The Egyptian envoy was also due to fly to Iraq later to deliver a similar message to President Saddam Hussein.

Badran confirms oil find

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Monday that there are encouraging signs that Jordan can produce oil in commercial quantities and the government plans to intensify oil exploration activities in the country.

Mr. Badran, speaking at a regular session of the National Consultative Council (NCC) presided over by its Speaker Suleiman Arar, was replying to questions by several NCC members regarding the exploration of oil in Jordan.

Mr. Badran said that laboratory tests conducted on the samples of oil found in Jordan shows that it contains only 1.1 per cent of sul-

phur which makes it refinable at the Jordan Petroleum Refining Company at Zarqa.

He added that laboratory tests indicated that the samples consist of 55 per cent fuel oil, 35 per cent diesel and gasoline and 10 per cent benzene.

Various stages

Commenting on various stages of oil exploration in the Kingdom, Mr. Badran said that between 1947 and 1976 14 wells were drilled at a cost of about JD 7 million.

He said that the exploration was carried out by several foreign companies and the results were negative.

The last well drilled in that per-

iod, Mr. Badran added, was in the Azrak area in the Rajel Valley and the foreign company responsible for the project reported oil traces resulting from geological cracks and earthquakes.

On the basis of the traces, the government directed its efforts to exploration studies financed by the treasury and gave responsibility to the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) to directly undertake the signing of agreements with foreign experts on seismological surveys, the prime minister said.

(Continued on page 3)

NCC denounces attack on embassy officials in Madrid, page 3

French switch cuts MNF strength

PARIS (R) — France announced Monday that 482 of its soldiers serving with the Multi-National Force (MNF) in Beirut would return to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) at the end of this month.

"The return of this element of the French force to UNIFIL obviously does not change the mission of the Multi-National Force in Beirut, in particular the French contingent of this force," the government announcement said.

It did not say whether the troops leaving Beirut would be replaced but defence sources said the total number of French soldiers in Lebanon would stay the same, confirming the Beirut contingent of 2,000 men would be cut by almost one quarter.

French officials rejected suggestions that the move amounted to a first step towards pulling out the French contingent in the

four-nation peace force, and refused to call it a withdrawal.

But it coincided with moves by Italy to withdraw some of its troops in Beirut and with mounting pressure on President Reagan to bring home the contingent of American Marines.

The French contingent has come under increasing attack recently and withdrew from several positions around Beirut just before Christmas. The force has lost 82 killed, including 58 paratroopers in a suicide truck bomb attack on Oct. 23.

Base attacked

A rocket-propelled grenade was fired at the main base of the French contingent in Beirut Sunday, but it did no damage, a French spokesman said in the Lebanese capital.

The grenade was fired from a

building 300 metres from the "Residence des Pins," headquarters of the French contingent, and hit surrounding earthworks without causing casualties.

The shadowy "Islamic Jihad" organisation which has claimed responsibility for attacks on the MNF had threatened the French and the Americans with a "real earthquake" if they did not pull out by the end of 1983.

Officially, the Paris government has said it will not give in to blackmail but, after visiting French troops at Christmas, Defence Minister, Charles Hernu hinted at a reassessment of the situation in Beirut.

French move seen as new security measure; Arab-American group to seek U.S. Marine withdrawal, page 2

Little-known Arab group claims credit for explosions in France

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — A message claiming that an "armed Arab struggle organisation" was responsible for two new year's eve bombings in southern France was issued to the press in this northern Lebanese city Monday.

The message, written in Arabic and French and addressed to the French people, said: "We will not let only our children weep for the blood of the Baalbek martyrs" — an apparent reference to a French air raid in November on a pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim guerrilla base at the Lebanese city of Baalbek.

The note was handed to journalists by an unidentified man. The "armed Arab struggle organisation" is a little known group believed to have made occasional claims to responsibility for previous bombings.

The bombs in France, which killed four people and injured more than 50, exploded within half an hour of each other, one in Marseilles railway station and another in a train which had left Marseilles for Paris.

French planes carried out the Baalbek raid after a suicide truck-bomb attack on the headquarters of the French contingent to the Beirut Multi-National Force (MNF) that killed 58 paratroopers on Oct. 23.

A bomb destroyed Tripoli's French Cultural Centre Sunday two weeks after a fire believed to have been set by arsonists partly gutted the city's French school.

French and American troops in Beirut are under threat from the pro-Iran extremist "Islamic Jihad" movement which has threatened retaliation if they did not leave Lebanon by the new year.

"Islamic Jihad" is believed responsible for last year's string of bloody truck bombings in Lebanon against American, French and Israeli targets in Kuwait on Dec. 12.

France tightens security, page 8

Fateh talks reach final stages

TUNIS (R) — Leaders of the Fateh commando group were Friday night hearing the end of lengthy talks on Palestinian strategy following Yasser Arafat's forced withdrawal from north Lebanon, Palestinian sources reported.

They said Mr. Arafat and the 10 other members of Fateh's Central Committee were drafting a final communiqué which one source predicted would be released by

Tuesday.

Heads of Fateh, main faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), have held three days of talks on the next steps to be taken after the evacuation from Tripoli and Mr. Arafat's surprise reconciliation with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"The discussions have not been easy," one committee member said.

The committee — including Fateh founding members Farouk Kaddumi, the PLO's foreign affairs spokesman, and Abu Iyad, generally considered as the group's number two behind Mr. Arafat — have been meeting at a tightly-guarded villa in a Tunis suburb.

Mr. Arafat was believed to have

(Continued on page 3)

Iraqis destroy 5 enemy naval targets

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Monday its navy and air force had destroyed five "enemy naval targets" at the northern tip of the Gulf and downed an Iranian helicopter gunship in a battle with Iraqi jets over the same area.

A high command communiqué also conceded that two Iraqi jets had been lost.

Iran had earlier said its jets had shot down two Soviet-made Iraqi warplanes, identified as a Sukhoi-22 and a MiG-23, during a

dog-fight Monday morning. The Iraqi communiqué said a convoy had been detected early Monday in the Khor Mousa area which leads up to the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini at the northern tip of the Gulf.

It said the convoy was attacked by Iraqi naval and air units and four of the "enemy naval targets" destroyed.

A fifth vessel from the convoy was also destroyed as it tried to flee the area, the communiqué

said.

It said other "naval targets" had scattered and fled in confusion. The communiqué said Iran sent several helicopter gunships to the aid of the convoy and intercepting Iraqi pilots reported seeing one U.S.-made Chinook helicopter crashing in flames into the sea.

The only Iraqi losses were the two jets, according to the communiqué, which added "we hold the Iranian side responsible for the safety of the pilots."

Lagos coup leader names ruling council

LONDON (R) — Nigeria's new ruler, Major-General Mohammed Buhari, has named the members of the supreme military council which replaced the civilian administration toppled in a bloodless coup on Saturday.

The list was announced on Radio Lagos, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. The exact number of council members was not clear but it appeared there were more than 12.

The council also appeared to include one civilian whose name was heard as S.N. Iyang.

Gen. Buhari is named head of the federal military government, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and chairman of the council.

Other senior members of the council include the chief of staff, supreme headquarters, whose name was heard as Brigadier Sinta Isiko, Minister of Defence Major-General Ball, Chief of the Army Staff Major-General Ibrahim Babangida, the chief of the



Mohammad Buhari

naval staff whose name was heard as Commodore Augustin Ayikomo, and the chief of air staff, Air Vice Marshal Ibrahim Alfa.

Brig. Saleh Abacha, the man who made the first announcement of the coup early on Saturday morning, is also included among the members of the council.

The radio said Gen. Buhari had

approved the appointment of G.A.E. Longe as secretary to the federal military government.

Reports from around the country in the Nigerian press and by the Nigerian news agency, NAN, spoke of complete calm after the coup.

Lagos were an almost normal look with Nigerians expressing surprise and delight at the friendly attitude of soldiers in combat gear manning road blocks.

There was no firm word on the fate of the ousted president, Shehu Shagari, although informed sources said he had been detained in Abuja, the site of Nigeria's planned new capital, on Friday night.

The sources said Vice-President Alex Ekwueme and House of Representatives Speaker Benjamin Nnamah, who were taken from their homes early on Saturday morning, were under detention in a Lagos military camp.

A coup to combat corruption? page 4

Israelis reopen

AWALI BRIDGE, Lebanon (R) — Long lines of vehicles and crowds of pedestrians began moving slowly through this Israeli checkpoint into South Lebanon Monday as Israeli troops reopened the crossing after a three-day shutdown.

At mid-morning, several hours after the bridge reopened, about 1,000 pedestrians and a queue of trucks about 1.5(0) metres long were still waiting to cross.

The bridge, and two other Israeli-controlled crossing points into southern Lebanon, had been closed since last Thursday evening. Israel announced without warning or explanation on Friday morning that they would not reopen until Monday.

State-run Beirut Radio said a second checkpoint at Bisi Bridge about 15 kilometres inland had also reopened. There was now word on the third crossing point at Nihia in the Shouf Mountains.

At the Awali Bridge, pedestrians waited for up to an hour to cross as Israeli soldiers and militiamen of their right-wing Lebanese ally Major Saad Haddad inspected the identity documents of all travellers.

Awali Bridge

Israeli military sources in Tel Aviv said the shutdowns were for technical reasons. But there was no indication at the bridge that any change in procedures had been made.

Journalists saw no sign of improved security or of efforts by the Israelis to speed up passage. Trucks have to wait for days in sight of the crossing before they are allowed through.

The slow checkpoint procedures have contributed to mounting anger at the Israeli occupation and at the damage that local officials say is being done to the region's economy by isolating the south from the rest of Lebanon.

Local inhabitants are also inc-

reasingly angered by Israeli actions to suppress protests and armed attacks on their men.

On Sunday night two grenades were thrown at an Israeli patrol in Sidon, southern Lebanon's principal city, without causing injuries and Israeli troops opened fire over the heads of demonstrators at the village of Kfar Tibnit, 27 kilometres southeast of Sidon.

Security sources said the Israelis opened fire when crowds of villagers stopped a patrol from detaining two inhabitants.

The Israelis left without the men, but returned at 2:00 a.m. Monday and detained another villager, the sources said.

Former CIA chiefs urge Marines' pullout from Beirut

WASHINGTON (R) — Three former directors of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Sunday called for the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Beirut, arguing the presence of the troops was exacerbating the Lebanese conflict.

In an interview on NBC television's "Meet the Press," two of the former CIA chiefs, Admiral Stansfield Turner and Mr. William Colby, described the presence of 1,800 Marines in Beirut as "inappropriate" to a multinational mission.

"We should not be sending superpower forces to a peacekeeping mission. The Marines are not a peacekeeping force," said Mr. Colby, who headed the CIA during the administrations of Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

"If our purpose is to support the (Amin) Gemayel government, we should be doing it with a military aid system and advisers, not with Marines," he said.

Adm. Turner, who served as director of the CIA during the Jimmy Carter administration, argued that the Marines could no longer be viewed as neutral peacekeepers because since Sep-

tember they had "clearly entered the Lebanese conflict on the side of the Gemayel government."

Adm. Turner said President Reagan had a "graceful option" for withdrawing the Marines — redeploying them on U.S. ships stationed off the Lebanese coast. He said small contingents could be sent in daily to patrol the Beirut Airport area.

Other sectors of Beirut are patrolled by French, British and Italian troops in the Multinational Force.

In a separate interview on ABC Television's "This Week With David Brinkley," James Schlesinger, a CIA director and later defence secretary during the Nixon and Ford administrations, said a Marine pullout was the only option for Mr. Reagan unless he was willing to step up U.S. military involvement to change the balance of power in Lebanon.

Mr. Schlesinger said Lebanon was not a vital U.S. interest and did not require a major deployment of U.S. military force.

Mr. Reagan is facing increasing pressure to withdraw the Marines. Opposition Democrats Sunday demanded a swift pullout.

Saudi Arabian prince prepares to visit Egypt

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabian Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz said Monday no political significance should be attached to a visit he will make to Egypt next weekend although it will be the first by a senior member of the Saudi royal family since Egypt made peace with Israel in 1979.

In an interview with Reuters, Prince Talal stressed he was going to Cairo in his role as president of the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organisations (AGFUND). He set up the fund in 1981 to channel aid to U.N. projects working chiefly to alleviate disease and hunger in the Third World.

Prince Talal said he understood he would be received by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak but he would not be taking any message from his brother, King Fahd. The visit was set up long before last month's controversial Cairo visit by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Prince Talal said about two million Egyptians were being helped by projects partly financed by AGFUND to develop basic health

services, fight the crippling waterborne disease, bilharzia, and help with education for the blind.

The Prince said: "Wherever AGFUND goes, I go. It would be rather strange to visit Colombia in Latin America and not Egypt, an Arab country of almost 47 million people."

Contributors to AGFUND are Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Iraq is a member but, owing to the cost of the war with Iran, has had to suspend contributions.

Prince Talal said he hoped that delays in getting 1983-84 contributions from Qatar and the Emirates, totalling \$10 million, were a result only of administrative problems.

He said the fund had so far disbursed a total of \$120 million on projects in 46 countries. Saudi Arabia is the biggest donor, accounting for about 65 per cent of AGFUND disbursements which are made only to U.N. schemes and on condition they do not exceed 50 per cent of a project's total cost.

France redeploys troops in new security measure

By Kate Dourian
Reuters

BEIRUT — The French pullout that led to heavy fighting in Beirut over Christmas was part of a new security plan for the safety of France's 2,000 troops in the Lebanese capital who have come under increasing attack recently.

The withdrawal from two positions around the Shatila Palestinian Refugee Camp in Beirut's southern slums came during a visit by Defence Minister Charles Hernu who flew out after the latest truck-bomb attack on the French.

Since then the paratroopers are known to have pulled out of at least three other strongpoints and re-deployed in new positions around the city.

The withdrawal from Shatila left the Lebanese Army confronting Shiite Muslim gunmen and brought three days of heavy

fighting between them in which at least 60 people died and more than 200 were wounded.

"We did it for the more efficient security of our soldiers, but you must remember we are still under a national command," the spokesman for the French contingent to the Beirut Multinational Force, Colonel Philippe de Longeaux said of the pullout.

Lebanon's deputy chief of military intelligence has said the French gave the Lebanese Army only 10 minutes warning before the 30 French soldiers were withdrawn from Shatila.

This had not been sufficient time for the Lebanese Army to take over the sensitive positions close to anti-government Shiite militia in "a calm operation", he said.

Troops of the Italian contingent to the Multinational Force were also apparently ignorant of the French move. An Italian soldier

said he woke up on Dec. 24 to find the French had packed up and left without a word.

Col. de Longeaux, however, brushed aside the Lebanese charge, saying the French command was constantly in contact with the Lebanese Army. He said the pullouts were made with the agreement and on the advice of the Lebanese Army.

A Defence Ministry spokesman in Paris said President Amin Gemayel and the Lebanese chief of staff knew several days in advance and gave their approval for the pullout from Shatila.

Col. de Longeaux indicated that the fighting after the French withdrawal showed the importance of the French force's role in Beirut.

"Thirty men are removed and it triggers all of this, which proves that our presence even in small numbers can prevent a clash."

The French contingent has been the target of most attacks against

the Multinational Force since its arrival in September 1982. The truck bombings against the French and U.S. bases on Oct. 23 killed 58 French paratroopers and 241 U.S. Marines.

Just before Christmas, a French soldier and 15 Lebanese were killed when a truck carrying more than a ton of explosives rolled to within 50 metres of a French regimental command post and blew up.

In recent weeks French troops on patrol around Beirut have come under increasing attack by grenade-throwers who invariably escape even when the French return the fire.

The "Islamic Jihad" organisation, the fundamentalist group which claims to have carried out all major attacks against the Multinational Force, has threatened the French and Americans with a "real earthquake" unless they pulled out by Jan. 1.

Heavy fighting reported in W. Sahara

PARIS (R) — The Polisario Front said Monday its forces killed 75 Moroccan soldiers and destroyed 23 vehicles in continued heavy fighting in the Western Sahara desert.

A front communiqué carried by the Algerian News Agency APS said Moroccan troops east of the Bou Craa Phosphate Mines on Saturday.

The Polisario says it has killed 329 Moroccans and destroyed 123 vehicles over three days in the disputed former Spanish Colony where it is fighting Morocco for independence.

Last month it said over 25,000 Moroccan troops had launched a major anti-guerrilla offensive in the desert.

But there has been no official confirmation of fighting from Morocco, which accuses Algeria of financing the front.

Arab-American group to seek Marines pullout

AMMAN (R) — The Federation of Arab-American Organisations will begin applying pressure on the U.S. administration to withdraw the Marines from Lebanon, the federation's president was quoted Monday as saying.

In an interview with the daily Al-Dustour newspaper, Dr. Mohammad Mahdi said the federation would also push for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, adding that the U.S. government was capable of achieving this.

Mr. Mahdi has just ended a five-day visit to Jordan. He and a delegation from the federation had earlier visited Damascus in an unsuccessful attempt to win the release of captured American navy pilot Lieutenant Robert Goodman.

Gulf health ministers meet

ABU DHABI, U.A.E. — The 16th conference of Arab health ministers from seven Gulf countries opened here Monday to consider a wide range of issues, from upgrading of services to training of medical and paramedical personnel.

The ministers will also discuss health education, upgrading of mother and child care services in the Arab world and aid for victims of natural disasters.

Further points on the agenda include public participation in the cost of medical services and treatment of nationals falling sick abroad, equipping of hospitals and the unification of curricula in health institutes and nursing schools.

Four killed in Tunisian riots

TUNIS (R) — Four people have been killed in rioting in Tunisia since last Thursday, the Tunisian Interior Ministry said Monday.

In a statement quoted by the Tunisian News Agency TAP, the ministry said security forces were now in control but there had been violent incidents and public and private property had been looted.

Diplomatic sources said that in the city of Kasserine troops were on patrol Monday in jeeps and armoured personnel carriers in a show of force, and schools and government offices had been closed.

The riots, which were in the Kabilia, El Hamma, Kasserine and Gafsa areas, were provoked by "jobless and idlers", the ministry said.

Earlier, medical sources said gunfire killed three people and wounded 19 in riots Sunday in Kasserine, 200 kilometres from here in the depressed south-west of the country following sharp in-

creases in the price of bread. The Interior Ministry statement did not link the riots to price rises.

Government officials said there were also incidents in Douz and Kabilia, on the edge of the Sahara desert.

TAP said President Habib Bourguiba chaired a meeting Monday morning attended by Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali and the ministers of defence and the interior.

Government-controlled bread prices rose by 70 per cent Sunday and angry youths attacking a supermarket by police using teargas and small arms, one source told Reuters by telephone.

Local residents said the rioters burned shops, cars and a petrol station and attacked a national guard office. Monday, the city was described by diplomatic sources as tense but quiet.

Some shops were open but

bread was not being sold, a diplomat with local contacts said, adding: "There is concern that the rioting could begin anew."

Last October, the government said it would end subsidies on grain products including the staples bread and couscous to help cut its budget deficit. It also promised to increase wages and social security deficit. It also promised to increase wages and social security benefits but many of the poorest are still badly off, diplomatic sources said.

One diplomat said: "There is deep resentment in the south and west of the country which are the most economically depressed areas and receive much less development aid from the government than other regions."

There were no details of the disturbances in Gafsa, a mining town south of Kasserine which was the scene of a Libyan-backed rebel attack in January 1980.

Free West Bank seen possible

NEW YORK (A.P.) — If the Israeli-occupied West Bank "were to be associated with Jordan... or become an independent state, fairly rapid development could occur" in the area, an American economic consulting firm says.

"If the area were annexed to Israel, emigration would probably increase," according to Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates Inc., but "economic development would probably stagnate, given the history of the last few years and the poor economic development record among the Arabs resident in Israel."

Wharton says that if the West Bank became independent or joined up with Jordan, "investment capital likely would arrive from Jordan, other Arab states, Palestinians working abroad, the United States and other nations. The new entity would probably quickly attract the human resources, from among Palestinians now residing abroad, it needs for economic development, and no longer lose the talent it produces in impressive numbers."

In an economic study of the West Bank issued this month, the firm notes that currently "the economy of the West Bank is small

and relatively static, with growth and development largely determined and controlled by the Israeli military government."

It adds that "if the status quo continues," this basic pattern "will most probably persist. If true West Bank autonomy were to be initiated, which left economic decisions mainly to the Palestinians, a modest degree of development would most probably occur. Another political option is the possible expulsion of large numbers of Palestinians... Such a move would most likely further unbalance the West Bank economy."

Turkish Cypriot leader proposes Greek resettlement of Famagusta

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash Monday proposed the reopening of Nicosia International Airport and the resettlement of Greek Cypriots in the former tourist resort of Famagusta, now deserted in Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus.

Mr. Denkash made the proposals in a statement in the northern, Turkish-occupied sector of this divided city in what was billed as a "New Year's peace offensive."

But it was not immediately clear whether the proposals went much further than those announced previously by the minority Turkish Cypriots on the Mediterranean island.

Mr. Denkash's statement outlined the Turkish-Cypriot community's proposals for a "peaceful federal solution to the Cyprus problem". He said that, to reduce tension and remove obstacles in the path of progress for a peaceful settlement, the Turkish-Cypriot side was making offers and hoping the Greek-Cypriot side would respond favourably.

Mr. Denkash proposed the resettlement of Greek Cypriots to parts of Famagusta (known in Turkish as Varosha), the island's most popular resort until Turkish

troops invaded northern Cyprus in 1974 and Greek Cypriots fled south.

As the Turks approached, the Greek Cypriots, who owned most of the resort's hotels, abandoned the resort, which has since become a ghost town, surrounded by barbed wire and Turkish troops.

The Turkish Cypriots have previously proposed the resettlement of Greek Cypriots in the town but Monday's reference by Denkash to "resettlement" under interim United Nations supervision and administration" was seen by observers on the Turkish-Cypriot side as possibly a new element.

The Greek Cypriots have rejected previous Turkish-Cypriot proposals for allowing Greek Cypriots back to Famagusta, saying this would imply recognition of a separate Turkish-Cypriot side of the island divided by the Turkish invasion.

Mr. Denkash's other main proposal Monday was the reopening of Nicosia International Airport, closed to normal traffic since the Turkish invasion and controlled by U.N. forces.

Since then, the Greek Cypriots have used Larnaca Airport while the Turkish Cypriots have used

the small Ercan Airport near Nicosia. U.N. forces and V.I.P.s use Nicosia International Airport, next to the "Green Line" buffer zone.

Mr. Denkash said Monday the Turkish-Cypriot side was not insisting, as before, that the airport be run by the two ethnic communities "on the basis of equality."

This time, he proposed reopening the airport "under interim U.N. administration" and "for the mutual benefit" of the two communities.

Across the "Green Line", the internationally-recognised government of Cyprus made no immediate comment on Denkash's proposals. Officials said the government needed time to study the statement.

Mr. Denkash, who unilaterally declared an independent "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" last November, also proposed Monday the reactivation of a U.N. committee on missing persons and the setting up of bi-communal committees to discuss trade, tourism, travel, municipal problems, water and environmental questions as well as the possibility of opening a joint university.

| TV & RADIO | | WHAT'S GOING ON | | FOR THE TRAVELLER | | USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS. | |
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| JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL 17:30 Koran 17:45 News 18:00 Programmes Review 18:15 News in Arabic 18:30 Local Programme 18:45 News Bulletin 19:00 Local Programme 20:00 Cinema "84" 20:15 News in Arabic FOREIGN CHANNEL 18:00 French Programme 19:00 News in French 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Comedy: Barney Miller 21:00 Secret Army - Eps. 13 21:10 News in English 21:20 Play of the Week: Plaza Suite RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW 07:00 Light Music 07:30 News Desk 08:00 Morning Show 08:30 News Summary 08:45 Morning Show 09:00 Pop Session 09:15 News Summary 09:30 Pop Session 09:45 News Summary 10:00 Pop Session 10:15 News Summary 10:30 Pop Session 10:45 News Summary 11:00 Pop Session 11:15 News Summary 11:30 Pop Session 11:45 News Summary 12:00 Pop Session 12:15 News Summary 12:30 Pop Session 12:45 News Summary 13:00 Pop Session 13:15 News Summary 13:30 Pop Session 13:45 News Summary 14:00 Pop Session 14:15 News Summary 14:30 Pop Session 14:45 News Summary 15:00 Pop Session 15:15 News Summary 15:30 Pop Session 15:45 News Summary 16:00 Pop Session 16:15 News Summary 16:30 Pop Session 16:45 News Summary 17:00 Pop Session 17:15 News Summary 17:30 Pop Session 17:45 News Summary 18:00 Pop Session 18:15 News Summary 18:30 Pop Session 18:45 News Summary 19:00 Pop Session 19:15 News Summary 19:30 Pop Session 19:45 News Summary 20:00 Pop Session 20:15 News Summary 20:30 Pop Session 20:45 News Summary 21:00 Pop Session 21:15 News Summary 21:30 Pop Session 21:45 News Summary 22:00 Pop Session | | TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITION * Senegalese Tapestries at the Jordan National Gallery. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 British Centre Library 41520 British Council 36147-8 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Hays Arts Centre 668195 Hussein Youth City 667181 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Y.W.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 143555 MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qaf's Citadel Hill. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mutazah, Jabal Luwdeh, Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. Mary's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240. PRAYER TIMES 05:12 Fair 06:37 (Source) Sharq | | AMMAN AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 07:00 Cairo (EA) 09:05 Amman (RJ) 09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:30 Jeddah (RJ) 09:45 Bahrain, Kuwait (RJ) 09:55 Cairo (RJ) 10:00 Damascus (RJ) 10:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:15 Beirut (RJ) 10:40 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ) 10:45 Kuwait (RJ) 10:50 Cairo (RJ) 10:55 Bucharest, Istanbul (RJ) 11:00 Larnaca (RJ) 11:15 New York, Vienna (RJ) 11:15 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ) 11:20 Beirut (RJ) 11:35 London, Paris (RJ) 11:40 Tripoli (RJ) 11:45 Cairo (EA) 12:20 Athens (OA) 12:40 Rome, Damascus (RJ) 12:45 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ) 12:50 Cairo (RJ) 12:55 Baghdad (RJ) 01:05 Cairo (EA) DEPARTURES: 05:45 Cairo (RJ) 06:30 Beirut (RJ) 06:40 Damascus (RJ) 07:00 Amman (RJ) 07:30 Amman (RJ) 07:45 Beirut (RJ) 08:00 Tripoli (RJ) 08:05 Cairo (RJ) 08:15 Athens (OA) 08:20 Rome, Damascus (RJ) 08:25 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ) 08:30 Cairo (RJ) 08:35 Baghdad (RJ) 08:45 Cairo (EA) WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be cloudy, with light and variable winds which will be gradually changing to northerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. Low/high temperature in deg. C: Amman 11/24, Agaba 19/34, Humidity 44 per cent. Amman 11/24, Agaba 19/34, Humidity 44 per cent. | | EMERGENCIES Ambulance 193, 75111 Fire, fire, police 199 Blood bank 75121 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 23049 Police rescue 192, 3111, 3777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 66390-1 Electric Power Co. 36381-2 Municipal water service 71125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 81381-32 Khadija Maternity, J. Amman 44381-4 Al-Khadija Maternity, J. Amman 42441 Jabal Amman Maternity 42362 Nafas, J. Amman 36140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4 Shmeisani Hospital 669121 University Hospital 845845 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Muhsin Hospital 667227-9 The Islamic, Abdali 665292 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164 Italian, Al-Muhajir 77101-3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111 Army, Marka 91611 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Fayed Hussein Jallouq 24027 MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple (Double Red) 370/350 Apple (Golden) 370/350 Apple (Spartan) 370/350 Apple (Small) 220/180 Apple (Local) 220/180 Banana 270/220 Banana (Mukammal) 230/200 Beans 80/60 Carrot 60/40 Cauliflower (white) 150/130 Cucumber (large) 200/150 Cucumber (small) 380/250 Eggplant (large) 180/150 Eggplant (small) 150/100 Figs 400/300 Garlic 360/320 Grapes (white) 700/600 Grapes (black) 700/600 Grapefruit 120/90 Guava 400/300 Lemon 140/110 Marrow (large) 80/60 Marrow (small) 150/100 Mallow 160/140 Olives 350/200 Onion (dry) 150/130 Okra 150/100 Oranges (Abn Surra) 230/180 Oranges (Shamouni) 170/130 Pears 700/650 Pepper (sweet) 170/120 Pepper (hot green) 170/120 Potatoes 160/120 | |

Aden women's seminar probes occupation plight

AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the Women's Department at the Ministry of Social Development Buthaina Jardaneh said a recently concluded seminar in Aden on the role of Arab women in confronting Zionist plans recommended continued co-ordination between various Arab women's organisations in future international conferences and forums to highlight the struggle and sufferings of Palestinian women in the occupied Arab territories.

Mrs. Jardaneh, who represented Jordan in the three-day seminar concluded Dec. 26, said the meeting discussed research papers and studies on the struggle of Palestinian women in particular and Arab women in general for confronting Zionist plans and their danger to the Arab World in addition to the role of Palestinian women in the socio-political struggle against Zionist occupation over the years of Israeli occupation in 1967.

The seminar also discussed ways for exposing Israel's crimes and arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people in and outside the occupied Arab territories.

The meeting, which was attended by women social leaders from various Arab countries, also recommended the setting up of a voluntary women's fund to be contributed to by Arab governments, Mrs. Jardaneh said.

The fund is suggested to invest accumulated money in various projects part of whose revenues are to be allocated for assisting Palestinian martyrs families in and outside the occupied territories, she added.

At the cultural level, the seminar recommended exposing Zionist plans throughout the world with the help of publications, films and by the use of international and regional forums, Mrs. Jardaneh said.

She said it also recommended offering assistance and support for popular academic institutions in the occupied territories and extending aid to the Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem for encouraging its scientific and academic research.

She added that the establishment of an open Arab university for facilitating higher education for Palestinian students was also stressed by the seminar.

Jordanian doctors perform successful cancer operation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian medical team has succeeded in removing a cancerous tumour from the head of a five-year old boy at Al Bashir government hospital in Amman, a report in Al Dustour newspaper said Sunday.

Dr. Ibrahim Al Simadi headed the team of surgeons who conducted the three-and-a-half hour operation.

The tumour removed on Wednesday, weighed 320 grammes, according to the report.

The boy, named Samer Mohammad Khali, was admitted to King Hussein Medical Centre in February 1982 only to be returned for more treatment at Al Bashir Hospital. It was at Al Bashir Hospital that the tumour was discovered on March 5, 1982.

Following the second operation, the boy's condition worsened the family carried him to the West Bank where he was admitted to Hadassa Hospital for treatment, but to no avail.

The boy by this time had been suffering from semi paralysis in the left leg and left arm and later lost appetite and was unable to move. According to Dr. Simadi, the operation was very sensitive and dangerous as the result could be either total failure or total success. He added that complete success can be established in two years' time unless other complications come up.

Mohammad condoles Balkaz family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Mohammad Monday evening visited the Balkaz family house and conveyed to them his condolences on the death of Walid Jamal Balkaz, an official at the Jordanian embassy in Madrid who was killed on by an unidentified gunman Thursday.

Civil courts requested

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce has sent a memo to Prime Minister Mudar Badran asking that those violating the Ministry of Supply regulations should be tried by civil courts instead of military ones, according to a story in the Jordanian daily Sawt Al Shaab.

In case such a procedure is untenable, the memo requested that violators should be tried at military courts in their cities of residence instead of confining trials to Amman.

Industrialists receive 98 loans worth JD8,450,000 from IDB

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has granted 98 loans amounting to JD 8,450,000 in Jordan.

Fifty four of these, amounting to JD 4,769,000, are to be used for financing the purchase of machinery and tools while the other 44 worth JD 3,681,000 are for financing the purchase of raw materials.

The bank sources said that it has agreed to issue six new industrial loans at an amount of JD 168,000. Two of these, worth JD 19,000, will be allocated for financing the

expansion of two projects for producing men's leather shoes in Madaba and ready-made clothes in Amman. Four loans worth JD 149,000 will be used for financing the purchase of raw materials for industries producing plastic covers, drip irrigation pipes, marble, cement tiles and ready-made clothes.

The sources said that the added value to the GNP which these projects will yield during the first year of production amounts to JD 277,000, in addition to providing new job opportunities.

Teachers to get higher pay, more work deal

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education plans to increase the salary of teachers at its schools in exchange for an increase in their educational tasks, according to a ministry spokesman.

He said that the ministry is also conducting a study in cooperation with the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University aimed at raising the efficiency and standard of teaching in both academic and vocational training fields.

The ministry hopes to make a university degree or its equivalent the minimum qualifications needed for practicing teaching at Jordanian schools, the spokesman said.

According to the ministry the step is to be taken in a bid to stem a trend among teachers who take up jobs after work hours, which is incompatible with the nature of their profession.

2 hurt in lorry accident

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two people were seriously wounded in a road accident which occurred on Amman-Zarqa motorway, according to a story published Monday in the Jordanian daily Al Ra'i.

The accident took place when the driver of a lorry proceeding from Amman to Zarqa lost control of his vehicle, careened on to the opposite lane and collided with a petrol bowser of the Jordanian Petroleum Refinery Company.

The two injured drivers were taken to the military hospital in Marka for treatment.

Airport gets 2 water wells

AMMAN (Petra) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) has completed the drilling of two drinking water wells at the Queen Alia International Airport area. Preliminary results indicated that one of the two wells produces 90 cubic metres per hour.

The drilling of the two wells aims at providing the airport with enough drinking water, which is currently supplied from Amman. And this affects the supplies to the neighbouring areas.

NCC denounces attack on embassy in Madrid

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of National Consultative Council (NCC) members Monday denounced the recent criminal attack on the Jordanian embassy in Madrid Thursday.

The NCC members stressed in their Monday session that the tree of life in Jordan grows and yields fruit when watered with the blood of martyrs, and said that the despicable crime strengthens the Jordanian people's integrity and loyalty to the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

The members emphasised that all those living on Jordanian soil are invited to protect their country and inflict punishment on the criminals who try to obstruct its progress by assassinating its sons who are working in its embassies throughout the world. Such crimes should be duly punished whatever

the price, the NCC members said. The NCC Monday session approved three draft laws amending the laws on lands and buildings covered by municipal civic plans, the Amman Water and Sewerage Authority and the law on public sewerage of municipalities and areas within their plans.

The reason for the amendments was given as the lack of a standardised basis for taxes on buildings and land property, which has led to varying evaluations of such properties and the value of taxes imposed on them.

The government's justification for the amendments pointed out

that the currently effective law is insufficient for covering the rapidly-developing situation concerning this, and its application often lead to injustices which should be dealt with on a new basis.

The amendment of the other two laws is closely related to the buildings and lands issue, the government's reasoning goes on.

According to the new law, the minister of finance is to reduce the tax imposed on a building by 50 per cent if the owner proves that the building has by no means been occupied throughout the year subject to evaluation. In such a case, other reductions are provided for in the new law.

The NCC then resumed discussion of the draft law for control over insurance works and approved the eighth article as proposed by the government and the ninth and tenth articles as approved by the council's legal committee.

Social security network to extend pension law to cover all workers

AMMAN (Petra) — Social Security Corporation's Director General Farhi Obeid said that all working people in Jordan not covered by the pension law are to be covered by social security services.

In a press conference on Monday morning, Mr. Obeid pointed out that the number of employees registered under social security until the end of 1983 was 204,000 — 56,000 of whom were reg-

istered last year. Mr. Obeid added that the actual assets of the corporation were JD 67 million at the end of 1983.

Mr. Obeid went on to say that amongst the people covered by security are 143,000 Jordanians, in addition to 61,000 workers from various Arab and foreign countries.

Pension salaries the corporation

has allocated until the end of last November amounted to 515, totalling JD 451,000. The number of people who benefitted from the one payment compensation for service injuries was 225 to whom about JD 94,000 was issued, he said.

Worker casualties amounted to 12,428 in 1983 and the amount spent on their treatment was JD 717,000, he added.

Senegalese tapestries blend the old and new magnificently

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The exhibition of tapestries from Senegal at the Jordan National Gallery this week takes you by surprise. No-one, unless they are already familiar with this art form, can be prepared for these huge wall-bangings, so rich in colour and design, and so beautifully woven.

They open up a whole new world to discover, a world where Western values about art — particularly those concerning the importance of originality and the divisions into "fine", "decorative" and "craft" — have little relevance and customary definitions have to be broadened. The tapestries are thus not only visually exciting; they also present a stimulating challenge.

The 15 artists taking part in the exhibition all belong to a government-backed institute concerned with the promotion of talented young Senegalese craftsmen and women called the Manufactures Senegalaises des Arts Decoratifs (MSAD).

A small tapestry division was one of the first official ventures of this organisation and a group of artisans was sent to France in 1964 in order to learn various weaving techniques.

The first tapestries, made as they still are with wool from the place they studied in France — Aubusson — were so successful that a new "National Tapestry Works" was opened two short years later in 1966 in Thies, a vacated military site about 80 kilometres from the capital, Dakar.

Stunning art

The reason the tapestries were and still are so successful seems easy to find — they are stunning works of art. But there is more to it than that; these tapestries are, as President Senghor said in an inaugural message at the opening of the MSAD (reprinted in the catalogue to the exhibition) a "miracle of combining harmoniously technology from the outside with the traditional culture which is felt on the inside." The artists while using French-taught expertise to produce finely-made handcrafted products, have at the same time drawn on their own rich stock of ancient myths and legends and on the colourful lushness of tropical Africa for their designs and images. Hence the tapestries are full of birds, animals, trees, plants and human figures depicted in a wonderful spectrum of bright and gorgeous colours symbolically.

This latter element may be difficult to understand, so important is the role of originality in Western art. But for Africans, like the Chinese, this is not so. Their ancestors devised how to draw a jug, a human profile, simple perspective in the most economical yet expressive way and that is how contemporary artists in Senegal still draw them today. Because of this,



"Tann" by Senegalese artist Daouda Diouk

the tapestries taken as a whole exude a special sense of satisfying continuity and harmony. Coming with the exhibition was a representative from MSAD, and by seeing which were her favourite pieces one started to understand a little more about the tapestries. One of these was Khalifa Gueye's "Council" which depicts not so much a group of figures but their clothes — beautifully flowing robes decorated with motifs of concentric squares and circles in rich and unusual colours that conveyed the rhythmical swaying of a ritualistic dance.

ART REVIEW

Another tapestry which manages to express that very abstract notion of music perfectly is Mossa Sam's "Player of the Flute". Here among a thousand swirling colours that echo his own simple figure is the musician from whose attenuated instrument exude more colours in shapes and forms. These make you feel they were generated by the music itself.

Graceful movement

Many of the artists use birds in their designs perhaps because

King pledges to continue efforts

(Continued from page 1)

to our considering it as a justification.

"We say it again that this situation is irregular and it was implemented by arms and provocation and collaboration of a group of Palestinians.

"We do not consider this act as a courageous one representing the Palestinian Arab people and their aspirations.

"Our position is clear cut. We consider the PLO as existing and its existence and continuity is a fact, subject to its ability to return to the popular basis and to derive its strength and justifications for its existence and the continuity thereof from the people it represents.

Lebanese tragedy

On Lebanon, the King said the main reason for the country's tragedy "is, in my view, closely related to the reasons that cause instability in the region we live in. The reason for the failure to reach a just and honourable solution to the Middle East conflict that guarantees Palestinian rights greatly affects chances to find a solution

for the Lebanese problem. "Efforts made throughout last year for solving the problem made no progress because of deterioration in the world situation and the increasing tension between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. This reality is immensely suitable to Zionism and Israel and their aim of internationalising the conflict, which threatens our Arab identity, our present and future and pan-Arab ties."

The King pointed out that the Israeli forces, which are still present in Lebanon, "were supposed to have left Lebanon by the beginning of 1983." In addition, there are also forces of a brotherly Arab country, which should have also withdrawn from Lebanon.

"The goal has been and should remain the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty over all part of Lebanon and preservation of Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity. I frankly think that the circumstances prevailing in Lebanon and factors interacting on its soil have obstructed the arrival at such a desired conclusion, and will continue to foil efforts for achieving it unless such goals are

redefined and restressed."

On threats of Lebanon being partitioned, the King said: "I completely oppose the current trend we see in Lebanon, and which might be seen elsewhere in the Arab World in the future, for dividing us into factions and minorities; a situation that best suits Israel's hegemonic ambitions enabling it to become the region's superpower. I believe a scenario to this effect is currently being carried out."

Pan-Arab action

On Pan-Arab action, the King said: "A first step for shouldering our responsibilities effectively is to revise the Arab League Charter in a way that enables the majority to have an effective say that can be embodied in practical steps endorsed by all. This is the way for adopting a clear policy and thus we can enforce a position which earns us respect throughout the world."

Gulf war

On the Iran-Iraq war, the King

said:

"The essence of the conflict is not that of disputed territories or borders, as this can be possibly solved at the negotiating table; the issue is much related to Iran's relations with the region's states which should be based on mutual respect, non-interference in either party's internal affairs.

"It seems to me that the intrinsic goal behind the war is integrating the region and eradicating divisions among brothers. If such attempts happen to succeed, the Arab region and the whole of the Arab Nation will be affected. We support Iraq because we believe it's a rightful stand."

The King expressed pride of the stand adopted by Jordan in support of the Iraq at a very early stage of the war. He added: "The conflict poses an obvious threat to the Gulf region as it gives the chance for external forces to concentrate its presence in the region and weaken it. This would divert the Arabs effort away from more vital and essential issues. It is a tragedy to all of us."

Drive on to eradicate adult illiteracy in Jordan

Abdul Rahman Al Abboushi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A study compiled by the ministry of education reveals that 34.6 per cent of the Jordanian population, or nearly 357,000 persons, are illiterate.

The study, prepared by Mr. Abdul Karim Al Momani, the director of adult education and eradication of illiteracy at the ministry, stressed government policies in eradicating illiteracy, and the various difficulties encountered in educating adult Jordanians. It also reviewed developments in education in the country in 1921 and outlined programmes for the future.

By opening literacy centres around the country, the ministry hopes to reduce the number of illiterate people, offer equal opportunities to Jordanians in education, vocational training and make citizens more productive after they have acquired new training and skills, the study said.

It said that most of the illiterate people are above 15 years of age and are offered education in evening classes to enable them to read and write and do simple arithmetic.

But this only conforms with traditional methods and falls far behind the ministry's aspirations and long-term goals, the study added. "We aim at developing adult education in Jordan but we are confronted with a number of obstacles and constraints which make our task difficult," Mr. Momani said.

At present, he explained, the ministry of education is solely in charge of educating illiterate adults but in fact this should be the responsibility of all public and private institutions. The ministry's comprehensive campaign to spread education among all illiterate Jordanians requires funds estimated at JD 20 million, and unless the ministry is supported by external sources it cannot undertake the whole task, Mr. Momani said.

He said that the ministry encounters difficulties in raising sufficient funds, recruiting supervisors and trainers, lacks technical facilities and equipment and faces other obstacles in its endeavours.

Badran confirms oil discovery in Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Such surveys were conducted in various parts of the Kingdom covering a total length of about 11,500 kilometres, Mr. Badran said.

Various agreements

An agreement was signed between Jordan and the Iraqi National Petroleum Company under which the Iraqi company sent a seismicological team in mid-1983 which covered up till now a distance of 722 kilometres, he said. "While the team provided us with technical expertise, Saudi Arabia provided us with the necessary equipment," Mr. Badran added.

After mid-1983, he said, an agreement was signed with a Yugoslav company to set up a 5,000-metre deep drilling rig.

Jordan also signed various agreements with French, British and American companies for the necessary technical expertise, he said. He added that in mid-1983 an agreement with a Romanian com-

pany was signed for a 4,000-metre deep rig.

Until now, he said, seven wells in the Azrak and Reesheh areas have been drilled by the Romanian and Yugoslav companies.

The Yugoslav company drilled two wells in Azrak, namely Rajel Well 2 and 3, where oil was found in small quantities, the prime minister said. "The significance of the exploration lies in the existence of moving oil in the lower layers which is considered to be an important turning point in the exploration field," he said.

First indications

Mr. Badran added that another three wells were drilled in Azrak and "four days ago the drilling reached a depth of 2,927 metres with oil traces appearing at depths of 1,570 and 2,000 metres but on a very little scale."

According to preliminary tests conducted on cylindrical samples from an oil carrying layer indicated that at depth of six metres the region could produce 400 bar-

rels a day, he said.

Drilling is still going on to reach depths of 3,500 and 4,000 metres according to the capabilities of drilling rigs in the site, he added.

Technical studies, he pointed out, have reported promising signs of the existence of another oil layer and "the results of tests carried out on this layer would appear within the next few days."

Clearer reports expected soon

"There are many complicated technical issues and the technical studies are expected to give a clearer report in the near future," he said.

Fateh leaders hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

begin the discussions with an explanation of his decision to meet Mr. Mubarak. His colleagues sharply criticised him for not consulting them beforehand.

But the critics stopped short of condemning the idea of a rec-

onciliation with Egypt, which is still officially boycotted by the Arab League for signing a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Diplomatic sources expected that Mr. Arafat would convince his Fateh colleagues of the need to mend fences with Egypt.

Spacelab's successful return seen as a new era in space

By Paul Malamud

JOHNSON SPACE CENTRE, Texas — Spacelab's successful return to earth Dec. 8 signals a new era in scientific experimentation in space, according to U.S. officials.

In an interview with the U.S. Information Agency, Dr. Rick Chappell, of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), hailed the European-built Spacelab's science mission aboard the U.S. space shuttle as "a turning point — a merging of active science with manned space flight."

NASA and European Space Agency (ESA) officials and scientists were clearly elated at the almost-perfect mission, which is expected to give a strong boost to future manned scientific experimentation in space.

With the exception of one experiment that was to employ a microwave radar to study weather and land features on earth, all the science investigations on board achieved substantial returns.

Spacelab, a self-enclosed science laboratory with an outer instrument pallet attached to it that flies into space in the shuttle's cargo hold, was designed and built by European contractors working under the aegis of ESA. About half of the experiments in Spacelab were American, half European. Canadian and Japanese scientists also contributed experiments.

When the shuttle's cargo bay doors were opened in orbit, the outside of Spacelab and its instrument pallet were directly exposed to the vacuum of space. The laboratory was connected to the shuttle computers by a crawlway tube.

Spacelab was a first in that two crew members — Dr. Byron Lichtenberg of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States and Dr. Ulf Merbold of the Max Planck Institute in Stuttgart, West Germany — were trained primarily as scientists rather than as astronauts.

Officials of ESA expressed satisfaction at the way the mission had gone and at the quality of the science achieved.

Erik Quistgaard, head of ESA, said in an interview with USIA Dec. 5 that Spacelab I has been "an extraordinary success."

"It has succeeded beyond our expectations," Quistgaard remarked. "The cooperation between our two agencies (NASA and ESA) has been outstanding."

Quistgaard said that continuing cooperation in space science, in individual experiments and in groups of experiments that come from different sources but complement one another's objectives,

is the wave of the future, due to the increasingly high cost of scientific research.

Quistgaard described the atmosphere among the scientists of the many different nations gathered in Houston to monitor their experiments aboard Spacelab as "almost like a club — they don't think about whether they are French or German or American."

Quistgaard predicted that not only will the United States and Europe continue to cooperate in the use of space for scientific research but that countries from other areas of the world will join as well.

Derek Mullinger, the British head of the team that integrated the European experiments in the Spacelab payload, said that the mission had generated "more data than they (the scientists) would have believed possible."

He said one of the greatest benefits of the Spacelab mission was the ability of the scientists on board to modify experiments in mid-course and to do previously unplanned experiments as the results of earlier ones became known.

Mullinger said that having groups of similar science experiments on board had helped the scientific success of the mission as the experiments complemented and reinforced one another.

Vohel Bignier of France, director of Space Transportation Systems for ESA said that difficulties encountered with equipment breakdowns during the mission were "very small" compared to the successes. He said that the Europeans considered the performance of Spacelab itself about 95 per cent successful, while the experiment payload contributed by European nations had had a success rate of about 85 per cent. The results, Bignier said, were "very good."

He added that "the crew was extremely fine."

"In Spacelab, the spirit of cooperation was extremely good," Bignier said, adding that the Europeans would want to participate with Americans in a space station "if and when the U.S. programme is decided."

Dr. Chappell, a mission scientist, said that much of the Spacelab science data is not yet known. An important part of that data, he pointed out, will be generated as the crew readapts to gravity. The study of this will take weeks.

"Dr. Chappell predicted that it would take months to gather and publish the data from some experiments, such as the life science experiments involving studies of the balance mechanism of the inner ear, and that it might take years to fully assimilate the data from others, such as spectrographic analysis of the X-ray

emissions of distant stars.

Dr. Chappell summarised the types of experiments that have been performed and what has been learned so far. In a series of experiments involving man's adaptation to zero gravity, it has been learned, first, that it is possible to do experiments in space without making the crew too sick to do their work, and second, that visual stimuli seem to become increasingly important in orienting the body in zero gravity when the inner ear's balance mechanism is inoperative. This, Dr. Chappell said, should lead us to a better understanding of the inner ear balance system in general, and the findings may be applied to earth diseases involving dizziness and a loss of balance.

In another experiment, Dr. Chappell said, a fungus that grows a new clump of itself every 24 hours on earth continued to do that in a dark and weightless environment aboard Spacelab, proving that its sense of time, its "Circadian rhythm," was inherent and not due to fluctuations in light or other cues provided by the earth environment. Sunflowers were filmed as they grew during the flight to see whether gravity was necessary for them to grow as they do on earth, but the film has not yet been studied, Dr. Chappell said.

In materials science experiments, the crewmen tried to learn more about the manufacture of new metal alloys and pure crystals in a zero-gravity environment, Dr. Chappell said. These experiments were designed to find out more about how liquids mix with solids and with one another in that environment.

Historically, Dr. Chappell pointed out, society's technological development has depended on man's acquisition of new materials to create new technology. Wood made it possible to build boats, stone to build buildings stronger than those built of wood, iron and steel to build railroads, and aluminium to build jets. While the results of the spacelab materials experiments are not yet fully known, it seems possible that new alloys made in space may speed up the invention of new technologies and that better knowledge of the mechanism of crystal formation learned on board Spacelab may lead to the development of more powerful computer chips.

The experiments just described were designed to exploit the weightlessness aboard Spacelab, but for another group Spacelab served as a flying platform from which to make astronomical and earth observations. Less than 30 per cent of the earth's surface, Dr. Chappell pointed out, has been mapped in detail. Spacelab carried a metric

camera that can take overlapping and stereoscopic photographs with excellent resolution. This may lead to better maps and better understanding of areas like the Amazon Basin, still very largely unknown.

Observations by Spacelab instruments of very faint light emissions from earth's upper atmosphere will give scientists more information about the workings and chemical composition of the upper atmosphere, Dr. Chappell said. The delicate upper atmosphere, he noted, is essential to man's survival, yet little is known of how it is being affected by man-made pollution with such agents as freon and carbon dioxide. Since so little is known about the workings of this upper atmosphere, it is difficult to predict how man-made environmental changes could affect its gases, which protect them from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

The study of space plasma, ionised gases found beyond the earth's atmosphere, is important to a better understanding of the nature of the planets, the sun and the universe as a whole, Dr. Chappell said.

According to Dr. Chappell, 99.9 per cent of the universe is in a plasma state.

Rather than just measure the plasma with passive instrumentation as the shuttle flew through it, Dr. Chappell said, beams of charged particles were shot into the plasma in order to observe how it reacts. This, he remarked, should increase basic understanding of plasma physics and of the universe.

Other instruments on board Spacelab measured "the solar constant," the total energy output of the sun. He said that since variations in this energy output of only a few tenths of a per cent can greatly affect earth's climate, accurate and comprehensive measurements are of great value.

Ultraviolet and X-ray telescopes aboard Spacelab, Dr. Chappell said, have "in a broad sense" taken better pictures of faraway astronomical objects than ever before seen. This should help scientists to better understand how stars, including the sun, are born, evolve, and die.

Sources at the European Space Agency indicated that Spacelab I has convinced some scientists who had doubted the utility of a manned laboratory in space that such a facility truly has a place in scientific experimentation. It has also helped the chances of U.S.-European cooperation in a larger orbiting space station. "It's not whether we will have a space station," one European official said, "it's when." — USIA.

Big U.S. plans for the future after 25 years of success

By Denise Kalette

WASHINGTON — The United States space agency is celebrating its 25th birthday — counting successes and plotting a course that could propel ordinary Americans into space and put robots on the moon.

The successes are well-known: The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (N-

ASA) has sent 61 men and nine women into space. It has planted a U.S. flag on the moon. It has sent Pioneer 10, 5,600 million kilometres beyond the farthest planet, Pluto, and out of our solar system. After eight shuttle flights, it's preparing a 1986 Jupiter mission. NASA still stretches the imagination.

"We've done great things. We've explored neighbouring

planets," says NASA administrator James Beggs. "We've satisfied ourselves there's no life on those planets. We're on our way to Uranus (the planet seventh in order from the sun)."

"NASA has contributed in a major way to the future," says scientist Carl Sagan. "We'll look back on what NASA has done — that one moment in history when you leave your planet for the first

time — as corresponding to the voyages of Columbus or Magellan."

And the U.S. space agency is about to embark on a new generation of space adventures:

— A space station, most likely in the shape of a cylindrical "house" for six to 10 scientists. It could be operational in the early 1990s and used for experiments involving metals, solar energy, drugs, medicine. Says shuttle Commander Richard Truly: "We want to have... Americans in space every day of the year."

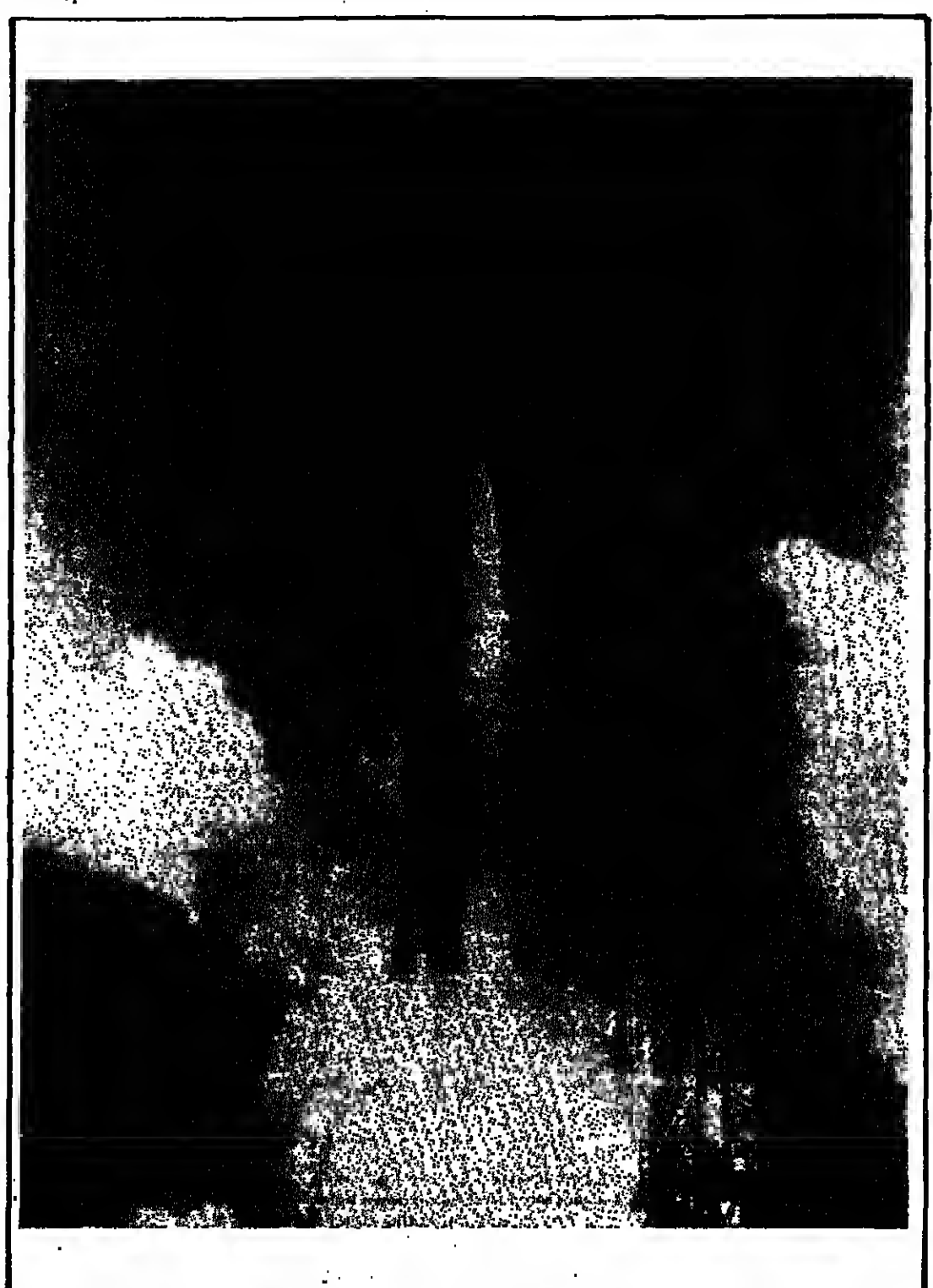
— An occupied base on the moon. Beggs says, "The earth is becoming encased in a cocoon of... radio and television waves that interfere with anything we want to hear from outer space." So a moon station is ideal for receiving communication signals from space. The United States also wants to mine the moon's natural resources and to put manufacturing facilities there. "We envision first landing robots on the moon, allowing them to do the initial construction work."

— Non-astronauts can expect to fly on the U.S. space shuttle in the mid-1980s, when 18 to 20 shuttle flights are scheduled a year. Each shuttle can carry seven people, including a crew of four. An average mission would carry one or two passengers. Preference would be given to journalists, artists, writers, photographers, "probably some politicians," who can translate their experiences into words or art, Beggs says. "Later on, we could simply use a lottery. Pull a name out of a hat, take them down to Houston, Texas (Johnson Space Centre) and train them for a month or two. By that time (the shuttle) may be a commercial venture. Whoever operates it can sell tickets."

— A space telescope will be put into orbit in 1986. We will be able to see 14,000 million light years away to what some experts call the edge of the universe.

Not currently on the drawing board: A proposal called the Taurus project. Retired NASA architect Jesse Strickland says the space colony would place about 10,000 Americans at a spot between earth and moon. It would duplicate earth's environment, with trees and perhaps, lifestyle.

"There are astonishingly exciting exploratory missions that are technologically feasible right now," Sagan says. "Robot crews: A set of moving vehicles wandering across the surface of Mars. Finding an object, poking it. Tasting it." We could explore asteroids or Titan, largest of Saturn's moons, to discover the steps that led to life thousands of millions of years ago. — USIA.



U.S. Mercury-Atlas rocket blasts into space in 1962 carrying American astronaut John Glenn in the Friendship 7 spacecraft on the first U.S. orbital space flight. The U.S. Space Agency, now celebrating its 25th birthday, is plotting a future course that could propel ordinary Americans into space and put robots on the moon (Photo from Press & Publications Service).

celebrating its 25th birthday, is plotting a future course that could propel ordinary Americans into space and put robots on the moon (Photo from Press & Publications Service).

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Liverpool falters as Whiteside snatches late equaliser for United

LONDON (R) — Champions Liverpool faltered in their bid to become the first side in nearly 50 years to win the English Soccer Championship three times in succession when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Manchester United in a bruising, action-packed tussle at Anfield on Saturday.

United's 18-year-old striker Norman Whiteside snatched the equaliser in the 89th minute after Craig Johnston fired the League leaders into a 32nd minute lead.

But there was little new year charity offered by either side in the tense top-of-the-table clash and both teams suffered casualties. United were rocked in the first half when defender Gordon McQueen limped off with a leg injury and Liverpool lost Scottish striker Kenny Dalglish shortly after halftime following a collision with United defender Kevin Moran.

There was little change in the top five first division places, with Liverpool on 45 points remaining three points clear of United. West Ham stay third on 40 following their 2-2 draw at Notts County, but will rue the 3-0 lead they surrendered.

Fourth-placed Southampton, dropped to fifth place after drawing 2-2 at home with Aston Villa while Nottingham Forest joined them on 39 points but moved fourth on goal difference after winning 3-2 at Luton.

But there was more misery for Tottenham, now without a win in six League games. They went 2-0 down at home to Watford inside 20 minutes as young Scottish

striker Maurice Johnston pounced twice to take his tally to eight goals in nine games.

Tottenham, without Argentine midfielder Osvaldo Ardiles but boosted by the return of England's Glenn Hoddle, fought back to level the match in the second half when full-back Chris Hughton netted in the 53rd minute and Hoddle converted a penalty in the 63rd. But England winger John Barnes clinched the points for Watford 12 minutes from time when he lashed home a penalty.

Liverpool, chasing their seventh title in nine seasons, were always in control against United, who were again without injured skipper Bryan Robson. Goalkeeper Gary Bailey kept United's hopes alive time and again with a string of superb saves, but they fell behind when Johnston was on hand to steer the ball home after Arthur Albiston cleared Graeme Souness's raking 18-metre volley off his own line.

United were forced to use substitute striker Garth Crooks, on loan from Tottenham, after just 19 minutes when McQueen went off with a suspected hamstring pull. And their reshuffled side seemed about to be overrun by the champions.



Kenny Dalglish...injured.



Norman Whiteside...snatches the equaliser.

But they weathered the assault and the champions, seeking to equal Arsenal's feat of winning three consecutive titles 49 years ago, clearly lost the edge once Dalglish had left the pitch.

As the seconds ticked away Ray Wilkins swept the ball wide, Crooks headed down and Northern Ireland World Cup star Whiteside crashed the equaliser past Grobbelaar.

United, who beat the champions at Old Trafford in September, have now taken four League points off Liverpool this season. They also beat them in the Charity Shield at Wembley in August.

West Ham looked to be on the way to another three points when

Ray Steward converted an 18th minute penalty to put them 1-0 up at Notts County. Dave Swindlehurst followed up a mistake by country goalkeeper Jim McDonagh to make it 2-0 eight minutes later but County staged a brave fightback.

Trevor Christie reduced the deficit with his 14th goal of the season and Martin O'Neill hit the equaliser with goals either side of halftime.

Two goals in the last nine minutes from Steve Moran and David Armstrong earned Southampton a point against former European Champions Villa. Steve McMahon short them into a third minute lead before Gary Shaw made it 2-1 after the interval.

Speed skating golden girl in four-time Olympic bid

INZELL (DaD) — Monika Holzer-Pflug, speed skating gold medalist at Sapporo in 1972, when she was 17, is still in the rink.

At 29 and a mother of two, she is preparing for her fourth Olympics. Sarajevo in 1984. "She's phenomenal," says coach Ab Kroog, "no-one else would have stood the strain."

He is referring to the ups and downs in her 12-year career. After her surprise Olympic gold and world championship titles she was news. Her private life was aired in the press and her wedding was given more attention than the bronze medals she won at the

1973 and 1974 world championships.

After coming fifth at the 1976 Olympics in Innsbruck she seemed to have reached the end of the road, especially when a displaced pelvis was diagnosed — the result of years of speed skating. But the birth of her daughter Diana in 1978 seems to have strengthened her out.

But she was a flop at Lake Placid in 1980 and her career seemed to be over when she and her husband parted. Yet last year she made a comeback and won another bronze medal at the world championships.

Cash fined \$300 after changing-room outburst

ADELAIDE (R) — Australian Davis Cup star Pat Cash, 18, was fined \$300 Monday for a changing-room outburst during the South Australian Open Tennis Championships.

Cash, who played a leading role in Australia's Davis Cup final win over Sweden last week, was reported for allegedly damaging club

property on Sunday after losing a bad-tempered quarter-final against American Mike Bauer. He has 10 days to appeal.

Bauer, the fifth seed and defending champion, beat another Australian, Brad Drewett, 7-6, 6-4 Monday and will play Czechoslovak teenager Miloslav Mecir in Tuesday's final.

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West Berlin mooted as venue for '92 Olympics

WEST BERLIN (DaD) — Plans for West Berlin to apply to host the 1992 summer Olympics are gaining momentum and increasing support. Peter Rebsch, speaker of the city council, has agreed to be patron of the campaign. Home Affairs Senator Heinrich Lummer and Youth and Sport Senator Hanna-Renate Laurien have promised support.

But the idea is still in its early days, and Berlin cannot submit an application for 1992 until 1986. Yet it certainly has the facilities. It is a city in the heart of Europe with all the infrastructure needed: hotels and transport facilities and sports grounds such as the 1936 Olympic stadium that need little more than a wash and brush-up.

Willi Daume, president of the National Olympic Committee, is non-committal. He says he has yet to be officially informed that West Berlin would like to host the 1992 Olympics and can say nothing until he has studied the plans. He obviously cannot jump the IOC's gun.

It's Los Angeles next year and Athens in 1996, the centenary of the modern Olympics. Barcelona would like to come in between, and Spain has never hosted the Olympic Games, whereas the Federal Republic of Germany did at Munich and Kiel in 1972. But Berlin would still be a fine venue.

Anthems replace the jeers as Egypt's sportsmen rise again

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuter

CAIRO — Egyptian sports fans will long remember 1983 as the year when their country scored sweeping victories in a host of African championships, and patriotic songs replaced jeers of derision on the stands.

Its footballers this year won through to the finals of the African Nations Soccer Cup and retained the African Cup Winners Cup, while national sides won African championships in hockey, volleyball and basketball, clinching places in next summer's Los Angeles Olympics.

Sports commentators hail a dramatic resurgence of national pride as partly behind the successes of 1983, after two decades of indifference which saw Egypt slump from the heights of African sports supremacy it held in the 1940s and 50s.

Soccer remains the nation's favourite spectator sport, and a 1-0 win over Tunisia in the qualifying rounds of the African Nations Cup gave Egypt a place in the eight-nation finals in the Ivory Coast next March.

The win over Tunisia was sweet revenge for millions of soccer fans unable to erase bitter memories of a 6-4 aggregate defeat by Tunisia which lost Egypt a place in the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina.

Another big challenge for the national side is a two-leg clash with Algeria, the first later this month, which will decide which of the two north African giants will have one of Africa's two places in the 1984 Olympic soccer tournament.

moment.

Memories of Algeria's shock 2-1 humbling of mighty West Germany in last year's World Cup finals in Spain remain fresh, and newspapers here have been full of pointers for the national side on the strengths and weaknesses of Algeria from Egyptians living there.

Egypt has prepared for the big match with two friendlies against Jordan in Amman last week, winning both of them 3-1.

But while the national side's successes have given local fans plenty to enthuse about, Egyptian club sides' performances in Africa have been more mixed.

Arab Contractors, the soccer team of a leading construction firm, retained the 'up 'inners' cup they won in 1982, beating Togo's Agaza Lome 2-0 on aggregate.

But the far more popular National (Al Ahli) disappointed 100,000 fans led by President Hosni Mubarak when they were held to a scoreless draw by Ashante Kotoko of Ghana in the first leg of the more prestigious 'champions' cup final in Cairo.

Kotoko, runner-up to National in the 1982 final, later clinched the title with a 1-0 win on their home ground.

National nevertheless carried off the Egyptian Cup, and could thus pose the biggest threat to Contractors' chances of retaining the African title for the third year running.

With Contractors defending their cup title, another Cairo club — Zamalek, which finished second in the league this year — will represent Egypt in the champions' trophy in 1984.

Further cause for celebration came with the national side's win over Kenya in the final of last September's African Championship in hockey, a game which previously had only a limited following here.

Its progress to the final included wins over such masters of the game as former holders Ghana and favourites Nigeria, and Egyptian inside-left Ali Al-Shourbagi, who emerged from the nine-day tournament with six goals to his credit, was hailed by the organisers as one of Africa's best players.

But whether Egypt will have a place in the 1984 Olympics will be decided next month by the Brussels-based International Hockey Federation, which will select Africa's representative on the basis of performances since the Moscow Olympics.

Egypt has, however, already booked places for its volleyball and basketball squads in Los Angeles.

The volleyball team clinched the African title with a 3-1 win over Tunisia in the final in Port Said early last month, while its basketball side carried off the 12th African men's championship in Alexandria last week, regaining a title it last held eight years ago.

Starting as an outsider behind such teams as title holders Ivory Coast, and Central Africa and Angola, Egypt's triumph owed much to the 28-year-old Sledha Yarda who, with 100 caps to his credit, did much to inspire the side to its 64-68 win over Angola in the final.

Soccer in U.S. promises to enrich the routine of spectator sports

By Marcia Sar

NEW YORK — The emergence of soccer in the United States promises to enrich the routine sequence of football-baseball-basketball-hockey (spectator sports already popular in America). But can it bring any advantageous effects for traditional soccer-loving countries? My answer is a strong yes.

As a somewhat typical European, I received a relatively typical European education. This means that before I could read or write I could kick a soccer ball a couple of times in the air in a row.

With this background I have been watching soccer's progress in the United States. When I came to America for the first in 1973 just a few years ago, this year in the Midwestern United States I see as many soccer fields in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado as if I were in a European or South American country.

On the world scene, soccer found itself in troubled waters in the 1970s. Maybe America can help to save soccer's best characteristics, such as bringing societies closer together and preserving the noble art of spectator sports.

Since the middle 1950s soccer has created a common language and subculture for European nations. The best players enjoy similar popularity all over, be it in the Soviet Union, Spain or Iceland. Furthermore, people quite often identify countries not by the names of their political leaders — who cares about them after all? — But by the names of their leading



U.S. soccer fans by the thousands fill a stadium in New York to watch a night game of the New York Cosmos soccer team. Soccer as a spectator sport is

increasing in popularity in America. (Photo by Press & Publications Service.)

soccer players. People in Africa and Asia often measure a European country's prestige by the performance of its national soccer team.

The European or world championships have sometimes been the only opportunities for acquaintance between people from countries which did not maintain normal diplomatic relations.

But soccer as a spectator sport raised many questions in the 1970s. Soccer can serve as a lightning rod for the aggressive streak in individuals and crowds. This was acceptable when heckling was limited to shouting at the referee.

Today's public behaviour is much more extreme.

Meanwhile, on the field itself, the attractiveness of soccer for onlookers is decreasing in Europe. Many people blame coaches for sticking to defensive tactics. At the same time fine forwards are often the target of specially trained hit men from the opposing team who, to use a Polish soccer saying, mow them down. Punishment for such actions is not strong enough.

Another shortcoming is that basically we still play the game our forefathers played at the beginning of the century. The rules indirectly discourage the offensive (most interesting) style of game and reward defensive, wait-for-opponents'-mistake tactics. It

is here I see the role for America. First of all, the never threatened European-Latin American soccer "duopoly" needs the fresh wind of competition.

Also needed is a higher level of fan behaviour. The behaviour of most American baseball and football spectators seems so ideal to me that I do not dare to dream about it. Even 50 per cent of this performance would be a substantial improvement in soccer crowds.

Last but not least there is much to do in regard to conduct and motivation of players. Soccer must become more competitive both at the individual and team level. This should help to restore fans' faith in the fairness of all — even the most improbable — results.

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Kabul orders all eligible men to sign up for military service

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Afghan government, now into its fifth year of war against Muslim guerrillas, has ordered all eligible men to sign up for military service or face imprisonment.

All able-bodied young men, reservists, draft dodgers and students who have failed university entrance examinations must appear before the authorities by March 21. Radio Kabul announced Sunday night.

In addition, any man found without identification papers will be drafted immediately even if he has already served or has a legitimate deferment. The state-run radio said in a broadcast monitored here.

Western diplomats here say the strength of the Afghan army, more than 80,000 when Soviet troops entered the country four years ago last week, has fallen to about 40,000 due to losses in battle and defections to the anti-

Communist rebels.

There are about 115,000 Soviet soldiers in the country but they tend to man tanks and artillery while Afghans are sent ahead for ground combat, say the diplomats, quoting reports from their embassies in Kabul.

They say the army has tried to make up the slack by sending press gangs through the cities looking for draft dodgers and young men are now a rare sight in Kabul bazaars because of the increasingly frequent searches.

The radio admitted many men had escaped military service by using forged deferment cards and called on the population to inform the police about such cases.

It also warned men always to carry all their documents for identity, employment, military service or deferment, or face immediate drafting if they are caught. "No excuse will be accepted," it said.

The broadcast warned press gang leaders not to tear up any documents, an apparent reference to reports that they have sometimes destroyed valid deferment cards to get enough men to fill their quotas.

The radio did not define the age limits for military service. The normal limits are 19 to 40 years. But Western diplomats say press gangs have recently been taking men between 16 and 45.

Duty tours have also been extended and few men were actually mustered out during a highly publicised demobilisation in October, they said.

Kabul has been resorting to increasingly stricter measures in recent months to fill the army's ranks. It announced in August that students failing university entrance tests or repeating classes would be liable for immediate call-up.

Western diplomats said some students were deliberately failing classes so they could stay at university longer and avoid the army.

The Afghan government allowed recent graduates to join the civil service for two years but said they would be sent to the army if they refused to work in the provinces, where Kabul's hold is shakier and guerrillas consider any civil servant an enemy.

Kabul University held its entrance tests a month early this autumn to identify failing students for immediate army service, said the diplomats.

So many young men are now in the army, with the guerrillas or abroad that Kabul University had more women than men applicants this year for the first time in its history. This was highly unusual for an Islamic country.

The army has also begun recalling some men who finished their military service between 1978 and 1980, the diplomats added.

Salvadorean guerrillas destroy major bridge

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Left-wing guerrillas Sunday destroyed a heavily fortified suspension bridge that had been a key road link to the eastern half of El Salvador, a military spokesman said.

At the site of another guerrilla attack against a garrison in the province of Chalatenango two days ago, residents said they had found an estimated 100 soldiers buried in mass graves dug by bulldozers. Authorities have refused to report on casualties and banned reporters from the area.

The military spokesman declined to give details about the attack on the Cucatan Suspension Bridge, located 70 kilometres east of here at a point where the Pan-American Highway meets the Lempa River.

But an employee at the San Lorenzo Dam a few hundred metres from the bridge said it collapsed into the river after an early morning blast. He said at least one national guard officer from the 110 troops defending the bridge was killed in the attack.

There was no immediate report on whether the garrison that defended the bridge had fought with guerrillas.

The attack left only one bridge spanning the Lempa River, which divides El Salvador in two. A railway bridge 30 kilometres south of the Cucatan Bridge has one lane for vehicle traffic. Guerrillas destroyed the only other bridge over the river in 1981.

Guerrilla-run Radio Venceremos said the attack was a strategic military blow to the army's capacity for mobilisation and to the country's economy.

It also said an electricity station had been destroyed, but the employee at the San Lorenzo Dam said the station was only slightly damaged.

The northern province of Chalatenango remained closed to reporters Sunday, two days after guerrillas destroyed the 500-metre bridge headquarters in a mortar attack.

A U.S. official described the attack as a considerable defeat for the army, and military sources said it was the first time in the four-year old war that guerrillas had taken a provincial garrison.

Berlin police rule out suicide in fire deaths

WEST BERLIN (R) — Six prisoners who died in a fire they started while awaiting deportation probably set it only as a demonstration, a police spokesman said here Sunday.

He rejected any theory that Saturday night's incident resulted from a suicide pact, which was earlier suggested by a fire brigade spokesman.

The victims, who barricaded their cell before setting mattresses on fire, were three Sri Lankans, aged 22, 24 and 26, a Lebanese, 19, a Tunisian, 22, and a Palestinian, 24.

Firemen called to break into their cell in a former U.S. army barracks found them dead of smoke inhalation.

Deputy police chief Martin Lippok told a news conference "I cannot believe that whoever set the fire... reckoned that it would end this way."

Another police spokesman said he thought the blaze was lit as a protest against the plight in which the deportees found themselves.

He added that it was not unusual for foreigners facing expulsion to injure themselves, and that fires had been started in the past for the same motive.

Mr. Lippok told the news conference that the Lebanese was being deported because of drug offences and the Tunisian because he had no identity papers.

The position of the Sri Lankans was unclear since they had not even requested political asylum when interviewed by an examining magistrate.

The incident is expected to embarrass the government in Bonn because of earlier criticism from the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees over accommodation and treatment accorded to refugees seeking political asylum in West Germany.

Paul Hartling, the high commissioner, was forced to cancel a visit to the West German Interior Ministry last year because of Bonn's anonymity over the criticism.

"West Germany has been flooded with applicants for political asylum from Asia, the Middle East and Africa in recent years.

To counter the flood, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right government introduced a law last year to speed up the procedure for examining applications

Philippine opposition opposes any military role in elections

MANILA (R) — Opposition parties will take part in the Philippines parliamentary elections next May if President Ferdinand Marcos agrees to keep the military out of the electoral process, a leading opposition politician said Monday.

Former Senator Eva Estrada Kalaw, vice-president of the United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO), said this was the opposition's main demand.

"We want the military out of the election scene. Their presence is enough to terrorise voters," she told Reuters.

Many opposition leaders believe Mr. Marcos' ruling New Society Movement (KBL) Party would be crushed in a fair election.

Gen. Kalaw said the opposition also insisted on foolproof inspection of votes and safeguards to ensure clean elections.

The opposition won a major victory when Mr. Marcos agreed to a new registration of voters to eliminate dead and "flying" voters from the lists.

UNIDO, a loose coalition of about a dozen opposition groups, and three other opposition parties have agreed to field common candidates to avoid vote-splitting if they finally decide to take part in the elections.

Guerrillas black out Lima as new mayor is sworn in

LIMA (R) — Maoist guerrillas bombed a power pylon and blacked out the Peruvian capital early Sunday only hours before its first Marxist mayor was sworn in.

Alfonso Barrantes, the first freely-elected Marxist mayor of a Latin American capital, said in a speech that his United Left (IU) coalition would win Peru's 1985 presidential election in which he could be his party's candidate. He condemned guerrilla violence.

Thousands of leftists packed Lima's central square to watch President Fernando Belaunde Terry swear in Mr. Barrantes, a 56-year-old lawyer.

The power cut, the sixth in the last two years that the Sendero Luminoso (shining path) guerrillas had blacked out Lima, occurred at the stroke of midnight, as revelers were greeting the New Year.

Police in Huancayo, 320 kilometres east of here, said the guerrillas had bombed a power pylon linking Lima to a hydroelectric plant. Power was restored in most parts of the capital by midday.

Mr. Barrantes is the first Marxist politician since Chile's late Salvador Allende to win a major free election in Latin America, political analysts said.

His immediate challenge is to find enough money to meet his campaign pledge to serve breakfast to a million needy children a day and to resettle squatters on expropriated land.

Limited by a meagre municipal budget, Mr. Barrantes travelled in Europe last month to seek aid funds.

He told Reuters he hoped to draw a 180 million World Bank loan to build a new food market and to modernise Lima's bus system.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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A MATTER OF TIMING

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ KQ5
♦ Q1072
♦ K43
♦ K76

WEST
♦ J8
♦ K43
♦ A9762
♦ A104

EAST
♦ 1073
♦ 985
♦ QJ105
♦ Q95

SOUTH
♦ A9642
♦ A8
♦ 8332

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♦ Dble 1 NT Dble
2 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ 4 ♦
Pass 4 ♦ Pass 4 ♦
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠.

Getting to a good contract is only half the battle. You have to bring the contract home to earn points.

This hand is from Greece's match against Indonesia at the last World Bridge Olympiad. Our reporter failed to explain the reason for West's rebid, but the rest of the auction was natural. The final contract was sound.

West led a trump rather than open up a side-suit. Declarer won in dummy, came to hand with the ace of spades and led a diamond. West pounced with the ace and shifted to a club, and declarer had no way to avoid defeat.

Declarer had gained a tempo with the trump opening lead. Since West, for his opening bid, was likely to hold both the ace of clubs and king of hearts, declarer could have got home by remaining a trick ahead.

Declarer should simply draw all the trumps and then lead the jack of hearts! If West does not win, declarer can continue with ace of hearts and another, and a heart is set up in dummy. If West does not cash the ace of diamonds, declarer will stuff his diamond loser on the good heart. But when West takes the ace of diamonds, he sets up dummy's king. When the king of clubs wins a trick, declarer can take two club discards in his hand on the table's high heart and king of diamonds. Either way, the defenders can get no more than the king of hearts and two tricks in the minor suits.

France tightens security after New Year bombings

PARIS (R) — France tightened security around public buildings Sunday after two New Year's Eve bomb blasts which killed four people and wounded 55, 11 of them seriously.

Police sources said extra patrols were stationed around stations, airports, ministries, the Paris home of President Francois Mitterrand and other key points.

The suitcase bombs exploded within half an hour of each other, one in the main railway station at Marseilles and another in a TGV high-speed train which left the city two hours earlier for Paris.

Police in Marseilles said they had received at least four anonymous calls claiming responsibility for the blasts but there was no evidence that any of them were genuine.

With no clear leads to follow, police were hoping for some clues from scientific analysis of the debris from the 10-kilogramme station bomb, which devastated a left luggage area crowded with passengers.

Many of the victims were cut by flying glass and by parts of the metal roof decoration which flew like shrapnel across the room, killing two people.

The other bomb in the train also caused two deaths but French railway officials said the carnage among the 170 passengers on board could easily have been far higher.

It was pure chance that the two carriages of the sleek orange train devastated by the blast were almost empty, they said. The train was also only travelling at half its maximum speed of 260 kph as it approached Tain l'Hermitage in the Rhone Valley.

A second high-speed train had just passed in the other direction travelling south when the bomb exploded, narrowly failing to cause a double derailment.

The government has been on its guard for weeks over against an upsurge of urban terrorism in the Middle East spilling over into France.

Its fears have centred on the possibility of a repeat in France of the suicide bomb which killed 58 French soldiers in Beirut in October.

31 countries register for non-aligned conference

JAKARTA (R) — Thirty-one nations have registered so far to send representatives to this month's meeting here of information ministers from non-aligned countries, Indonesia's information minister said Monday.

But Information Minister Harmoko also told reporters that responses were still expected from the other 70 member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement.

President Suharto of Indonesia is expected to open the four-day conference beginning on Jan. 26, which will take up matters including cooperation and exchange of news between member countries.

Mr. Harmoko told reporters the conference will also discuss the problem of telecommunications tariffs for the despatch of news.

"Cooperation in the information and communications spheres with the advanced countries could also be discussed," Mr. Harmoko said.

He said the conference should run smoothly in line with policy of the Non-Aligned Movement.

"All decisions would be taken on the basis of consensus," he said.

10-year-old boy freed by kidnappers in Italy

ROME (R) — Kidnappers have set free Rocco Lupini, a 10-year-old boy held since last May. Italian state-owned television reported Sunday night.

It said the boy had been found at Oppido Mamertina in Calabria, southern Italy, not far from the spot where he was abducted together with his mother last May 15. He was in good health, the television said.

The kidnappers set free the boy's mother late last year with instructions to speed up payment of an unspecified ransom. There was no immediate indication whether a ransom had been paid.

14 suspected terrorists detained in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — Fourteen men who arrived in Hong Kong on what officials described as forged French, German, Italian and Austrian passports have been interrogated by the authorities here on suspicion of being a terrorist group.

Government sources in Hong Kong said the men, who refused to disclose their true identities, were "most probably Iranians."

One has been flown out to Karachi in Pakistan and two others are likely to be extradited Monday.

Local press reports described their most likely target as the American consulate-general here.

The reports were dismissed by the U.S. consul-general as "rumours."

But security at the American mission has been stepped up with a truck parked in a slip-road, preventing easy access.

The fourteen men, aged between 18 and 29, arrived last Wednesday.

Nine came from Manila on forged French, Italian, German and Austrian passports. The other five flew in from Bangkok on fake French and German passports.

There is still a security clampdown on the operation. The arrest of the group was a top security operation, kept secret for more than three days.

But diplomatic observers said the fact that one man has been allowed to fly out of this security-conscious British colony and two more are likely to be released during the day suggests the group has begun to crack apart.

Government officials refused to disclose whether there had been international liaison, but a senior official said "it would be very difficult to conduct an operation like this entirely on your own."

Singapore's deputy premier says he is fit to carry on

SINGAPORE (R) — Deputy Prime Minister Simathambay Rajaratnam, defying doctors' orders by attending a dinner and dance two weeks after triple bypass heart surgery, told Singaporeans not to count on his retirement.

Mr. Rajaratnam, who will be 69 next month, told the constituency he has represented since 1959: "I may be around in Kampong Glam longer than you expect."

Political sources said the unexpected public appearance and the statement by Mr. Rajaratnam, one of Premier Lee Kuan Yew's trusted lieutenants and the father of Singapore's foreign policy, indicated Mr. Lee might not let many veterans drop out at the elections expected later this year.

Mr. Lee, 60, in power since 1959, has brought young technocrats into parliament over the past two elections and was expected to sideline several more elders this year as part of his plan to nurture a new team by 1990.

Mr. Rajaratnam said doctors had told him his heart was good for another 68 years and he was determined to carry on for as long as possible. He said he disobeyed doctors to be at the new year's function to thank his constituents and dispel any doubts about his health.

"Singapore is a place full of rumours. If a politician is not seen for any length of time, then rumours will spread that he was either very sick, dying or was already dead and that the government was keeping his body in a freezer until an announcement could be made," he said.

Peron tried to buy Falklands

LONDON (R) — Argentine Dictator Juan Peron tried to buy the Falkland Islands in 1953 but was told it would cause the overthrow of the British government, according to newly published state records.

The offer was conveyed to Britain by Admiral Alberto Teissiere, acting president of the Argentine Senate, when he attended the 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth.

The foreign office documents were released under a rule that allows public scrutiny of state papers after 30 years.

U.S., U.K. differed over Stalin's death

LONDON (R) — The United States and Britain differed over how to exploit uncertainty caused in Eastern Europe by Stalin's death in 1953, according to British cabinet papers for that year.

The papers, released Sunday under a 30-year rule of secrecy, suggest the then acting foreign secretary, Lord Salisbury, was worried over the attitude of U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

In a memorandum to the cabinet, Lord Salisbury referred to Anglo-American differences and wrote:

"There also seems now to be a new and more dangerous American tendency which has its roots in the republic election campaign, and was illustrated in a recent statement by Mr. Dulles to interpret the situation behind the Iron Curtain as already very shaky, and therefore to advocate new — although unspecified — measures to encourage and even promote the early liberation to the satellite countries."

"It is my intention to resist American pressure for new initiatives of this kind. A policy of pinpricks is calculated to exasperate the Russians, and is most unlikely to help the unhappy peoples of the occupied countries."

Lord Salisbury, deputising for Foreign Secretary Sir Anthony Eden who was ill, added: "The last thing we want to do is to bait the Russians and satellite governments into taking violent measures against them."

He said the rising in East Berlin only a few weeks earlier had been a warning to the Soviet Union of the dangers

Author of '1985' ponders 1984

By David Lewis
Reader

LONDON (R) — British writer Anthony Burgess is not too dismayed by the arrival of the year made famous by George Orwell, but he thinks he could be eating human flesh by the year 2000.

Mr. Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four, written in 1948, portrays a nightmare world of newspeak, doublethink and big brother.

Mr. Burgess, 65, told Reuters in an interview that the book was less a prophecy — "Orwell was too sensible on the whole to attempt that sort of thing" — than a satire on the year it was written.

"And 1984, despite everything, will certainly be better than 1948."

But the author of Earthly Powers, a Clockwork Orange and "1985" — partly a study of Nineteen Eighty-Four and partly a novel of the future — has some shock predictions of his own.

Although he thinks a nuclear war unlikely this century, Mr. Burgess still believes forecasts he made in the Wanting Seed (1962) that the world might try to solve its population and nutritional problems through cannibalism.

"Wait till the end of the century, and you'll find tons of human meat in the supermarkets," he said.

Does he really believe that?

"Well, it's a possibility... it isn't so mad," he says. "The revival of eucharistic religion could give a kind of mystical justification to eating people."

His "1985" portrays a Britain completely dominated by trade unions and on the verge of a rightist takeover disguised as Islam.

The country is nicknamed "Tuc-land" a pun on the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and the United King (TUK).

Although published as recently as 1978, "1985" has proved "fantastically wrong," Mr. Burgess admits.

"But I find that 'the wanting seed' looks more like a serious prophecy than intended at the time."

The novel depicts a future in which fake conventional wars are orchestrated to provide flesh for the rest of the population.

"The solution I propounded was meant partly jokingly and partly seriously. People laughed at it. But then came the Andes disaster."

In 1972, survivors of an air crash on a remote mountainside in the Chilean Andes lived for 72 days on the flesh of their dead companions before they were rescued.

"The cannibalism Mr. Burgess imagines in the Wanting Seed was made necessary partly because of nature's refusal to provide adequate harvests to feed a race promoting homosexuality as a means of population control."

Salvation is embodied in Beatrice-Joanna, a woman whose natural instincts towards motherhood cannot be extinguished, and a happy ending comes in a revolutionary orgy of fertility echoed in bumper crops throughout the natural world.

"Women are better than men at keeping a grip on reality," the author says. He regards the rise of women in our own society as good for the human race, at least in the short term.

Burgess says it has always been the aim of the political writer to warn the reader against possible futures.

His own technique in the fictional part of "1985" was to melodramatise certain tendencies he detected in British society.

"But it's always foolish to write a fictional prophecy that your readers are very soon going to be able to check," he admits ruefully.

And he says Mr. Orwell's decision to call his novel Nineteen Eighty-Four — inverting the last two digits of the year it was written — has led to "important" journalistic attempts to check on Mr. Orwell's reliability as a prophet.

Nineteen Eighty-Four is essentially a comic work satirising Britain's post-war life, Mr. Burgess says.

The sinister and ironically-named Ministry of Truth in Mr. Orwell's novel is nothing but the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in disguise, he says.

Room 101 — where the most terrible things happen to Mr. Orwell's hero, Winston Smith — is a room in the basement of the BBC, from which Mr. Orwell used to broadcast to India.

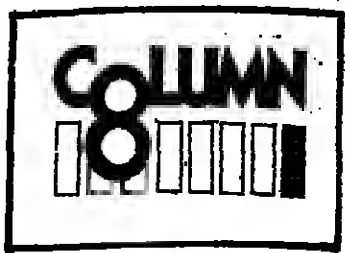
The shortage of cigarettes and razor blades were part of the austerity of post-war British life. "Big brother" was an idea borrowed from hoarding advertisements of the time, and exhortations to the telescreen to exercise a little harder derived from zealous supervisors at holiday camps.

Mr. Burgess agreed that Mr. Orwell may have been prophetic in renaming Britain Airstrip One, especially since U.S. cruise missiles arrived here last month, but said his other forecasts were correct only in "very trivial things," such as the telescreens that watch some of the 1984 population even at home.

Monaco, where Mr. Burgess lives, has telescreens on its streets.

The Shape of Things to Come (1933) by H.G. Wells and Brave New World (1932) by Aldous Huxley, who taught Mr. Orwell at Eton, were much more prophetically accurate, Mr. Burgess says.

"But I might be wrong... we might wake up in 1984 and find big brother watching us."



Lone sailor suffers early setback

LONDON (R) — Engine trouble struck a British lone sailor Sunday heading off on a planned round-the-world voyage in a barrel. Sailor Eric Peters, 44, was Sunday night awaiting repairs to his outboard motor, determined to go on after his early setback. The sailor left a River Thames pier in London Saturday for the first leg to France on his global trip. He plans to give his barrel-shaped boat, which has a sail, a final refit in the Canary Islands before crossing the Atlantic to pass through the Panama Canal and return to Britain via the Indian Ocean and Southern Africa. The Briton earned a place in the Guinness Book of Records early last year when he crossed the Atlantic in his tiny glass-fibre craft, at 5 ft 10.5 inches (1.8 metres) the smallest to make the crossing.

New Year reveller has narrow squeak

LONDON (R) — A British new year reveller ended up in hospital after accidentally swallowing a whistle-and-balloon noisemaker. Jonathan Green, 23, was taken to hospital from celebrations at Cosham in southern England to have the squeaker removed from near his lungs.

Stranded Greek tanker refloated

DOVER, Delaware (R) — Tugs refloated a Greek-registered tanker Sunday night, more than two days after it ran aground carrying 23 million gallons (85 million litres) of Chinese crude oil, the coast guard said. The 52,189-ton Ypatianna was nudged free after a barge unloaded part of its cargo. There were no signs of oil leakage or structural damage to the ship, a coastguard spokesman said. The tanker, bound for New Jersey, ran aground bow first five miles off Delaware on Friday morning.

Prince Charles said to be too 'posh'

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles would have a problem if his job depended on an interview because his upper crust accent is enough to put people "off" (off), says a British education expert. Many people are turned off by "posh" or exaggerated accents and that can stand in the way of promotion, says Professor John Honey in the January issue of Personnel Management Magazine. He criticises the heir to the throne for moving "abite the hicc" instead of "about the house", saying "lost" instead of "lost" and "empha" instead of "empire".

Beach Boys drummer drowns

LOS ANGELES (R) — Dennis Wilson, a member of the Beach Boys pop group, drowned while swimming and diving into the sea on the outskirts of Los Angeles, police said. The 39-year-old drummer and singer's body was recovered by a diving team from 13 feet (four metres) of water about two hours after he failed to surface. Police said it was not known how he drowned off a quay in Marina Del Rey.

Chinese police get new uniforms

PEKING (R) — Peking has given its traffic police new olive green uniforms and Chinese tax collectors have all put on a sombre blue-grey. The China Daily said Monday that the new wool-polyester uniforms would help distinguish traffic police, who used to wear dark blue, from military personnel and civilians.

Wife, 70, kills husband over affair

OAKLAND, California (R) — A 70-year-old wife shot and killed her 72-year-old husband on Christmas Day because he was having an affair with another woman, police said. They said Creasia Woods, a church-goer who had never been in trouble with the law before, took the family gun, drove to the other woman's house and killed her husband of 26 years. Mrs. Woods is "just a sweet sensitive woman," according to a lawyer who interviewed her.